

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

# S O C C E R

VOL. 20 No. 931 • TUESDAY 18 MAY 1999

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIAN POST • PUBLICATION NO. 931

WEEKLY

\$3.00

## CLASS ACTS!

### SOUTH RISE AGAIN

MAN UTD:  
ONE DOWN,  
TWO TO GO!





# SOCCER WEEKLY

## AUSSIE & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

5-13 Garners Ave., Marrickville NSW 2204.

Tel (02) 9562-0559 (Direct Line) Fax (02) 9550-9332

E-mail: [soccerweekly@hotmail.com](mailto:soccerweekly@hotmail.com)

Published every Tuesday by FLP Pty Ltd, 5-13 Garners Ave., Marrickville NSW 2204

### DISTRIBUTION

NSW/ACT: FLP Pty Ltd, 5-13 Garners Ave, Marrickville NSW 2204, Tel: (02) 9562-0500

VICTORIA: FLP Pty Ltd, 72-78 Gipps Street, Collingwood, 3066. Tel: (03) 9486-9522 Fax: (03) 9486-9858

QUEENSLAND: Queensland Newspaper Campbell St, Bowen Hills Qld. 4006 Tel: (07) 3252-6011

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Advertiser Newspaper Ltd, Waymouth St, Adelaide SA 5000 Tel: (08) 8218-9379

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Pan Hellenic Emporium, 67 James Street, Perth WA 6000. Tel: (08) 9328-4779

EDITOR: Aidan Ormond

LAYOUT CO-ORDINATOR: A.D. Akratos

LAYOUT/SETTING: Mary Quartly, Alameda Vea

SCANDER: Alex Sifakas

COLOUR SCANS: Bill Hawthorne

FILM PLANNING: Nick Rekonis, Nick Phillips

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: Shakraanda

HAIRDRESSER: 'Hair to the throne' of Bexley

### CORRESPONDENTS

Dwyght Tuffnell (Melbourne), Glenn Davis

(Brisbane), Richard Kreider (Perth), Nick Gouth

(Canberra), Margaret Bowden/Donald Campbell

(Adelaide).

WRITERS: Roy Hay, John Vrtaric, Craig Wilson,

Janene Mar, Daryl Katz, 'Soccer Spice', Bonnie

Merslades, Melissa Muscat, The Four Diegos,

Ben Cubby, Mark Stavroulakis, Eva Loukas

\*Daniel Giorlando (work exp.)

Recommended and maximum price, \$3.00

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♦ Deadline for contributions, articles and advertising is 3 days PRIOR to issue date.

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## REMINDER

HAVE YOU TOLD CHANNEL 7 THAT YOU WANT  
**BETTER SOCCER COVERAGE?**

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\*Write to Bruce McAvaney at PO Box Epping, NSW 2121

Remember, Soccer won the survey for most popular football code in their recent Net site poll.

## Melbourne Sports Books

New Soccer Books & Videos

### Title

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. The Jimmy Hill Story                                    | <b>\$50</b>                           |
| 2. Teddy Sheringham My Autobiography                       | <b>\$50</b>                           |
| 3. Ron Atkinson 'Big Ron'                                  | <b>\$50</b>                           |
| 4. Ronaldo   | <b>\$45</b>                           |
| 5. The Final Score: Fashanu, Segers and Grobbelaar         | <b>\$50</b>                           |
| 6. The Diary of Darren Tackle                              | <b>\$25</b>                           |
| 7. European Football Y/book 1998/99                        | <b>\$80</b>                           |
| 8. Harry Redknapp My Autobiography                         | <b>\$60</b>                           |
| 9. Michael Owen: two new books                             | <b>\$25 or \$20</b>                   |
| 10. Sticks Up Australia's only fanzine Apr 99 edition      | <b>\$3</b>                            |
| 11. Vinnie Jones' New Book                                 | <b>\$50</b>                           |
| 12. Johann Cruyff: New Book                                | <b>\$50</b>                           |
| 13. Ferenc Puskas: New Book                                | <b>\$35</b>                           |
| 14. David Beckham: My Story                                | <b>\$35</b>                           |
| 15. Frank Farina: My World is Round                        | <b>\$25</b>                           |
| 16. Tony Adams: Addicted                                   | <b>\$50</b>                           |
| 17. Glenn Hoddle: World Cup Diary                          | <b>\$50</b>                           |
| 18. Julian Dicks 'The Terminator'                          | <b>\$30</b>                           |
| 19. Diego Maradona: Hand of God                            | s/back <b>\$20</b> h/back <b>\$40</b> |
| 20. George Best: A Portrait of A Legend                    | <b>\$50</b>                           |
| 21. Gianfranco Zola: 2 new books                           | s/back <b>\$30</b> h/back <b>\$50</b> |
| 22. Fever Pitch  | <b>\$20</b>                           |
| 23. Alex Ferguson: A Will to Win                           | <b>\$25</b>                           |
| 24. F/ball Hooligan books: 'England my England' and others | <b>\$20</b>                           |
| 25. A History of the FA Cup                                | <b>\$75</b>                           |

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## PLANET HOLLYWOOD FOR CUP FINAL NIGHT

By Eva Loukas

Where can you enjoy good food, exotic cocktails, and a lively atmosphere while watching the sport you love? The answer is Planet Hollywood.

Located at 600 George Street, Sydney, Planet Hollywood is the place to be if you're looking for more than just a restaurant.

Drink at the huge 'Monster Bar' which accommodates up to 150 people or dine in the Planet's 'Adventure', 'Science Fiction' or 'Zebra' sections.

On a typical Saturday night, Planet Hollywood's Marketing and Public Relations Manager, Hazel Tan, explains that the place is "completely packed out. We have 17 big screens all around the restaurant and they're pumping all the time".

Now picture each of these

screens projecting the images of your favourite soccer stars on F.A Cup night. In addition to these screens, Planet Hollywood also boasts a 62 seat theatre which is available for private bookings. This is certainly going to be no ordinary night down at the Planet.

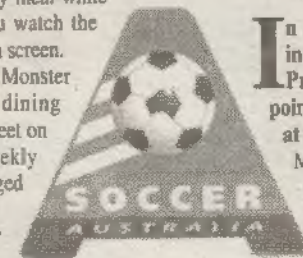
In fact, fans will find the entire atmosphere to be, as Hazel explains, "completely electrifying. I expect it to be totally packed out".

And with the entire restaurant open, what better way to watch the clash between Manchester United and Newcastle than among 350 other party goers keen to get a taste of the Hollywood meets soccer atmosphere.

You can sample one, or many of Planet Hollywood's cocktails or enjoy a delicious 'star' quality meal while surrounded by 'star' memorabilia as you watch the stars of English football strut their stuff on screen.

So, if you are a regular down at the 'Monster Bar' or if you've never experienced dining 'among the stars', get down to George Street on F.A Cup night and join the Soccer Weekly staff when Planet Hollywood will be tinged by that other universal passion... soccer.

For more information or to make your reservation, call Planet Hollywood on 9267 7827



Australians two-nil up at the half time break.

Second half substitute Joe Di Iorio was soon into the action, coming on in the 60th minute and making it 3-0 for Australia just five minutes later.

The icing was put on the cake in the final ten minutes, Dylan MacAllister adding to his goal tally in the 82nd minute, and Di Iorio putting away his second of the game from the penalty spot in the last minute of play.

The Joeys now go into immediate preparation for the final leg of qualifying, which sees them up against Bahrain over two legs, the first leg to be played next Saturday (22nd May) night in Canberra.

"I give full credit to the whole squad for coming through the tournament they way they did," said coach Les Scheinflug after the game.

"The boys handled the less than ideal conditions very well, and deserved their victory today."

"I have quite a lot of information on Bahrain, which is a very good side, having recently beaten Korea and Japan in the Asian qualifiers."

"They're no lightweights and we certainly won't be taking them lightly."

See Ben Cubby's story on facing page.

**AUSTRALIA 5** (McDonald 20', Cansdell-Sherriff 24', Di Iorio 65, 89 pen, MacAllister 82) defeated FIJI 0.

### JOEYS' SQUAD FOR FINAL

Jess Kedwell-Vanstrattan, Shane Lockhart, Aaron Goulding (Steve Laurie 78), Mark Byrnes, Shane Cansdell-Sherriff, Wayne Srhoj (James Johnson 64), Jade North, Lucas Pantelis (James Johnson 78), Scott McDonald Louis Brain (Joe Di Iorio 90), Dylan MacAllister.

In news from around Australia's leagues, and firstly in South Australia, and Elizabeth City is leading the Premier League table after nine rounds with 20 points; second placed Cumberland United is snapping at its heels, also on 20.

Meanwhile in the State League, Adelaide City has a clear lead, on 28 points, followed by second placed Metro Stars on 24. At the bottom is Adelaide Hills on six points after their 1-0 home loss. Salisbury United is on top in both the U/23 and U/19 State leagues.

And over in the hotbed of Australian Soccer, Perth, the Western Knights are on top in the Premier League, followed by Joondalup in second and Fremantle third—the Knights walloped Cockburn City 5-0 on the weekend, while Sterling Lions had a creditable 3-2 away win over Fremantle City.

In Division One, Dianella White Eagles had a terrific 4-2 away win over Stirling Suns.

Meanwhile, the Joeys have advanced to the final qualifier for the World Championship in NZ, with a good win over host nation Fiji in the Oceania Qualifying Final in front of a crowd of 5,000 at Churchill Park in Lautoka.

Semi final hat-trick hero Scott McDonald opened the scoring in the 20th minute for the Joeys, with Shane Cansdell-Sherriff adding his name to the list four minutes later to see the



# Australian News

## WEEKEND OF HIGH DRAMA

For those who believe that the Ericsson Cup should be decided on a 'first past the post' criterion, this last weekend will further strengthen the notion of Finals Football.

Across Australia the crowds (almost 40,000 for the two games) were treated to top quality, exciting, and physically tough games that have caught the imagination of the mainstream media, particularly in the West (see page 14), and have maintained the momentum of what has been, arguably, the best Finals series of the nineties.

It's worth noting that two of the sides, Glory and Spirit, have accounted for almost half of the crowds so far in this series.

South, however, have given themselves a magnificent opportunity for back-to-back titles, and a place in the World Club Championship, with their hard fought draw at Sydney United (see page 12).

United now plays Glory this Sunday at Marconi Stadium. Glory, in conjunction with Travel Land, has set up a special hotline for fans wanting to travel to Sydney (13 20 02).

The club is appealing to fans of Spirit to get behind them for this game — Spirit being a club that they feel an 'empathy' towards, said club General Manager Roger Lefort.

Radio Fremantle 100FM will broadcast the game live and the Glory is hopeful that the ABC will cover the game live in Perth.

\*Former AFL legend, Justin Madden, has taken over from Peter Jess at the consortium currently running Carlton.

\*Our thoughts are with South's David Clarkson, whose children were involved in a car accident on the weekend. Both kids were in a critical condition at the time of going to press. Clarkson did not make the trip to Sydney for their Finals game.



South Captain Paul Trimboli ... will lead his troops in the Grand Final for 1999. They are now in sight of an historic double.

## JUNGLE JOEYS RETURN WINNERS

By Ben Cubby

The Joeys returned, bleary eyed, to Sydney airport on Saturday morning, after belting Fiji 5-0 in the final of the Oceania round of qualifying matches for the Under-17 World Cup.

The team confirmed that Australia is head and shoulders above the rest of Oceania in terms of soccer development, and must now beat Bahrain to book a place in the World Cup finals which will be held in New Zealand later this year.

Australian coach Les Scheinflug said: "I'm always pleased to qualify in these sort of tournaments. The cricket federation would have been very happy with the state of the grounds. You couldn't stick a nail into them. They were like concrete — the ball bounced ten feet over your head. The pitches and the heat...were the reason why the first game against Fiji was so tight" (Australia won 2-1).

Scheinflug was happy with the way members of the squad are blending into a team. "Yes, I'm happy with them, but we have to put some work in. This squad has not been to South America like other ones have in the past, so they have not had much time together."

Mark Byrnes was our best player in this tournament, along with Radislav Culibrk and Joe Di Iorio, who is a very good striker. Shane Cansdell-Sheriff is also a good player. Jess Kedwell-Van Strattan came along as reserve 'keeper but ended up playing in the final as number one choice.

Kedwell-Van Strattan described wearing the green and gold of Australia as "awesome", and said "by the end of the tournament we were playing well. The Fijians are used to the hot conditions over there — they go in hard".

With the first phase of qualification complete, the Joeys are now focussed completely on the clash with Bahrain.

"We'll work on getting them playing normally again after these matches", said Scheinflug. "The boys need some Aussie food. We're going straight down to Canberra now to prepare for the next task."

Bahrain are

a good side. They beat South Korea and Japan and finished third in Asia. We've watched them on video and they have four or five players who are very good, but we can beat them".

West Ham defender Steve Laurie was cautiously optimistic about the upcoming match, saying "We've seen them on video...we fancy our chances".

The Joeys meet Bahrain in the first leg of the qualifier in Canberra on Saturday the 22nd of May.



Steve Laurie ... "we fancy our chances." Pic by Roy Hay

## PETER PETROVSKI: A TRIBUTE

By Mark Stavroulakis

It is sad to hear that one of our finest youngsters, who had a promising future in the game, is now no longer with us. Peter Petrovski died last week. He was a promising youth keeper at Sydney Olympic.

Peter was born on March 6 1981, and at the tender age of 6 was considered a potential future star. Progressing from St George juniors, all the big clubs were chasing this young man's signature.

Playing with the likes of Blacktown City, Sydney United, then moving to the NSW Institute of Sport, the talk of the town was where would Peter end up in the future.

To no surprise, Peter represented Australia at U/16 level, and later played for the Joeys.

"Petska" known to all his mates was in the Big Brother Scholarship scheme, something that took Peter to England and fulfilled his life long dream to experience what it was like to be professional.

Training with Leeds, and most notably with one of the biggest and most influential goalkeepers of all time, Manchester United, Peter Schmeichel, everything was going great for this promising star.

Once he arrived back in Sydney, UTS Olympic were one of many clubs that saw enormous potential in Peter, and snapped him up for what was to be a great career.

He started off in the second grade of Olympic in the season 97/98 and has since stayed with the club.

Head coach Peter Papanikitas was bewildered and lost for words and he too felt the strain of Peter's death.

Papanikitas knew him well, and saw a lot of potential in him, and the time was coming for Peter to make his 1st grade debut.

People who knew him, remembered the fun he used to bring at trainings and games, and knew that Peter was a lovable character. He was one of a kind, and now he will always remain in the hearts of all who knew him.

UTS Olympic second grade hopes that a win in the National Youth League Grand Final will be dedicated to Peter, and now we know that his soul is resting easily with God.

On behalf of UTS Olympic and Soccer Weekly, we send our condolences to the Petrovski family.

Peter's final resting place was at Rookwood Cemetery on Saturday 15th Of May, and there was a turnout of at least 1000 people who mourned the death of what could have been one of Australia's finest keepers.

Players from Bankstown, NSW ITC, all the Olympic boys from first grade, Academy and of course Peter's own team, were at hand to say their final farewells to a man that will be long remembered in the hearts of all who knew him.

WE WILL MISS YOU PETE!

\*Mark Stavroulakis was a team-mate of Peter at Olympic.

## NSW SOCCER FEDERATION



### ELITE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

### GOALKEEPER COACH/S

Applications are invited from suitably qualified coaches seeking to become involved in the development of young elite players.

You must be an experienced coach with at least Level 2 Australian Coaching Council accreditation. As part of the Elite Development team you will be required to identify and work with elite goalkeepers aged 12 to 16 years and be involved in the NSW Institute of Sport Men's & Women's Programs.

Players brought into this program work on technical development with State team and NSW Institute of Sport selection the desired outcome.

Written applications setting out coaching qualifications and experience close on Monday 24th May and should be addressed to:

Mr Max Groll  
Manager, Coaching & Development  
PO Box 6024  
BLACKTOWN BUSINESS CENTRE  
NSW 2148



# Australian News

## KNIGHTS PLANNING NEW DIRECTIONS

By Dwyght Tuffnell

**M**elbourne Knight are going to be busy in the off-season, with some radical changes being mooted to improve their fortunes.

The Knights had a disappointing year, both on and off the field.

There are plans to discuss issues such as changing of their name and moving to a new ground.

The Knights are currently looking at the option of switching to another playing venue with Olympic Park seemingly the favourite.

Knights General Manager, Damien Phillips, said the club had held discussions with Olympic Park management.

He also said they were looking into the possibility of playing at the Docklands or even at Bob Jane Stadium.

"Moving to a new ground is just one of the issues we're looking at at the moment. There are a dozen (issues) or more that we need to look at over the next three or four months" said Phillips.

"We might even end up staying here at Knights Stadium, the costs would certainly be reduced, but Olympic Park is the most preferred option if we are to move, the club has a history there."

With Carlton also looking to play at Olympic Park as well as the Knights, plus existing tenants, Melbourne Storm, arranging fixtures would be difficult though Phillips said that ground-sharing between three clubs could easily work.

"Our name is Melbourne Knights, really we should be representing the whole of Melbourne and if we do move closer to the

City, we can attract not only the people from the Western Suburbs, but those from other parts of Melbourne as well."

Meanwhile, Gippsland Falcons' search for a replacement for Stuart Munro is already well underway.

President Fred Di Sipio said that the Falcons will appoint a new coach within the next four weeks.

Munro, whose contract with the club finishes at the end of the month, accepted an offer to become the new coach of Carlton Soccer Club last week after just one season with the La Trobe Valley club.

Di Sipio said that whilst losing Munro was a bit of a set-back for the Falcons, they were already in the process of speaking to prospective candidates.

"Stuart Munro did his job well for the budget we had given him" said Di Sipio.

"It's just one of those things, we can't keep someone if another club has an offer that is better than the one we can give him."

"There are a number of coaches out there. We've already been talking to quite a few, including some from overseas."

Di Sipio wouldn't give any names but the like of Eddie Krncevic, Alan Davidson and Ian Dobson's names are bound to pop up.

It is the second year in succession that the Falcons have found themselves in this situation.

Last year they lost Frank Arok to Sydney Olympic before appointing Munro with Roy Aitken, Gary Cole and Ken Murphy all in the running for the job at one stage or another.



## NEWCASTLE UNI WORLD CUP!

The University Soccer World Cup will enter the play off phase this week after the final round of preliminary matches. Results were as follows:

Norway .....	6	Middle Orient .....	0
Islanders .....	1	Botswana .....	0
USA .....	2	Australia .....	1
Sweden .....	4	Asia .....	0

The games have resulted in the final point scores:

**Pool A:** Norway 10, Islanders 8, Botswana 6, Middle Orient 4

**Pool B:** Sweden 10, Australia 7, USA 6, Asia 6.

This week's semi-finals should be entertaining if the preliminary matches are a guide. All teams in the semi-finals had a free flowing style of football with attack foremost in their game plans.

The semi-finals will be held this Wednesday 19 May at University No.1 Oval at the following times:

6:00pm Norway	v	Australia
7:30pm Islanders	v	Sweden

All are welcome to witness World Cup fever!!! This has been the first year the University World Cup has been run and was an idea conceived at the Sports Union Office as a way of

bringing together the different nationalities on campus to showcase our sporting facilities. Football was chosen as it is the "most international language" of all sports. The Sports Union wanted to organise a positive event in the community in response to all the current unrest in the world. It is expected that this event will run every year.

Most of the games have been of relatively high standard with some outstanding players competing. These include former Norwegian youth international and Norway's keeper Christian Jaeger, and former Botswanan youth international

Brown Gasemthomo and Law Pheto.

A real surprise has been the competitiveness of USA who had the only multi-sex team of the tournament. USA missed out on the semi final berth by one point and upset Australia 2-1 in the final preliminary match.

The USA team comprised of American College players Trevor Frank, Mike Nelson, and Doug Pham, as well as US Women College players Deanna Evans and Jennifer Lambert. In fact Deanna scored one of the goals in their victory against Australia.

Norway has been the favourite throughout the tournament as many of its players have played at a relatively high level at home in Norway, and also play at a high level in Newcastle.



Australia's opposition, Norway

### General Overview

#### Stadium Australia 'Pure Gold' Membership Rights

The rights and obligations of Gold Members of Stadium Australia Club Limited ACN 083 753 637 ('the Club') are set out in the constitution of the Club. The following is intended to set out a general overview of the rights of Gold Members. Gold Members are bound by the constitution of the Club and may obtain a copy of the constitution of the Club upon request and payment of the prescribed fee.

**1. Gold Members Rights.** (Subject to Sections 2 and 3 below) 1.1 Attendance (with no further ticket payment) to: (a) All sporting events held at the Stadium (other than those events referred to in Sections 1.2 and 1.3 below). Some events to be held in 1999 and the events to be held in the years from 2000 onwards are not yet certain. No representation is made by the Club or Stadium Australia Management Limited ('Stadium Australia') that the events held in the years from 2000 onwards will be similar to those held in 1999. (b) Certain SOCOG events, being any Olympic Games Test Events for which SOCOG provides tickets for Gold Members or Olympic Cultural Events held at Stadium Australia. However, please note that Stadium Australia considers it unlikely that any Olympic Cultural Events will be held at Stadium Australia, and SOCOG is under no obligation to hold any such events at Stadium Australia. (During the course of these SOCOG event(s), Gold Membership car park booking rights and access to Gold Members' Facilities may be suspended at the sole election of SOCOG). (c) The event to mark the Official Opening of Stadium Australia (Saturday, 12th June 1999). 1.2 Attendance (with further ticket payment) to: (a) Major international sporting competitions which Stadium Australia may bid to host, in conjunction with organisations other than the NSW government, its instrumentalities or SOCOG, such as the Rugby League World Cup, Rugby Union World Cup, Soccer World Cup or any other similar events. (Please note that, with respect to the 2003 Rugby Union World Cup, Gold Members' rights have already been enhanced following agreement with the Australian Rugby Union for it to provide preferential seating rights to Gold Members). (b) All concerts and other non sporting events held at the Stadium (other than those referred to in Section 1.3). 1.3 Suspension or restriction of rights: (a) Stadium access for Gold Members and their guests will also be suspended or restricted during certain events staged by or jointly with SOCOG (this includes the 2000 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games). (b) Stadium access for Gold Members and their guests will be suspended or restricted where OCA, on behalf of the NSW Government, hires Stadium Australia for major international sporting events such as the Commonwealth Games and international sporting competitions of the type referred to in Section 1.2. (In these circumstances, OCA has agreed to use its best endeavours, consistent with any undertaking it has given in obtaining the right to host the relevant event, to negotiate assured seating in Stadium Australia at full ticket prices for Gold Members). (c) All Gold Members' Stadium access and car park booking rights will be suspended during periods of hire by the NSW Government. 1.4 Additional memberships: Where more than one Gold Membership is held by a Gold Member, the additional Gold Memberships may be used by guests of the Gold Member provided that the guests are accompanied by the Gold Member.

**2. Booking Procedures.** A Gold Member must comply with any booking procedures of the Club in order to attend the events referred to above. In particular, Gold Members must complete and return to the Club a booking form for Major Events (as identified in the Events Calendars that will be sent to Gold Members).

**3. Subscriptions.** Annual subscriptions must be paid by Gold Members on 1 January each year (or within 45 days of the date of invoice, whichever is the later). If you buy a Gold Membership pursuant to the terms of this 'Pure Gold' offer, the price already includes the 1999 annual subscription. Subscriptions (being \$270 for the 1999 calendar year) will be subject to annual increases, being the greater of the average increase in public ticket prices to events held at Stadium Australia and CPI. The subscriptions will be subject to review by the Club and SAM every five years, the first such review being in respect of the subscription payable in 2004.

## Have Your Say ...

**I**write this to criticise Soccer Australia's ill advised haste in accepting Auckland into the National League.

In their haste to pocket the franchise fee have they overlooked the implications of a New Zealand team in OUR league?

They can become used to the higher standard prevalent here — or taking it to the max — they could assemble a near representative squad, playing together regularly and experiencing our higher standard.

This would inevitably draw their national squad closer to our national side.

The franchise fee may be tempting but it pales into insignificance compared to the rewards for World Cup qualification.

World Cup qualification is vital to the financial well being of Soccer Australia.

Roy Lowe  
Email

**O**n Friday 14.5.99 Good Morning Australia's weekend sports round-up was again a big dismissal of soccer.

The bow-tied, biased, Bear couldn't believe that crowds are attending soccer matches or that the Socceroos game at the Olympic Stadium in June is already sold out. Why?

These reporters should remember that the public are paying them to report and they should give equal time and respect to all sports not just the ones they prefer.

It's always news when there is some disorder at a sporting event, but is seldom reported when they achieve.

Very little but Rugby, Cricket and Tennis is newsworthy.

As more countries in the world play soccer it is really the only game to qualify as a "World Cup Sport."

So give not only soccer but every other sport a "Fair Go" please.

B & J Martinez  
Swansea NSW



# Who wants guaranteed seats

## at the sporting heart of Australia?

With a Stadium Australia 'Pure Gold' Membership, it's the action that will blow you away, not the price.

This is your chance to guarantee your seat for over 31 years of action at Stadium Australia. For just \$699 deposit and \$299 a month for 16 months or a one off payment of \$5483 you can have a Gold Membership starting on 1 July 1999. This price includes your 1999 annual subscription.

And if you're one of the first 100 to buy a 'Pure Gold' membership you will also receive bonus tickets to three high profile events in June – before your membership starts. You'll see:

- ! NSW v Queensland in the NRL's State of Origin on 9 June;
- ! Socceroos v FIFA World Stars in the Stadium's Official Opening on 12 June; and
- ! Australia v England in Rugby Union's Centenary Test on 26 June.

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- ! A seat at all regularly scheduled sporting events for over 31 years, including AFL games planned from 2001 onwards;
- ! Access to the exclusive Gold Members' bars and dining facilities;
- ! The right to buy three additional seats and reserve parking (if available); plus
- ! Priority booking for special events, like concerts and any 2003 Rugby World Cup matches.

Events already confirmed for the rest of 1999 and which you'll be able to attend at no extra cost include the NFL American Bowl featuring the Denver Broncos v San Diego Chargers, the Bledisloe Cup, the NRL's Final Series Games and Grand Final plus the Socceroos v Manchester United. And that's just for starters.



**But hurry – the number of remaining memberships is strictly limited.  
Call 1800 011 011 now.**

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1999 subscription is included but an annual subscription will be payable from 2000 onwards.

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If my membership request is accepted please reserve me \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Gold Memberships and either:

- Find my cheque/money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$5483 x No. of Memberships) payable to Stadium Australia Management Ltd; or
- Charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ Bankcard ☐ Master Card ☐ Diners ☐ Amex  
with: ☐ A one-off payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$5483 x No. of Memberships)  
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# Australian Features

## AUSSIE SOCCER'S BREATH OF FRESH AIR

By Craig Wilson

There are few movies with as much soccer in them as *Fresh Air*, which opened this week in Sydney. Young, innovative, and yes, like a breath of fresh air, the movie has had a very successful first week. On screen average it's the third most popular movie in the country right now.

Director Neil Mansfield met Soccer Weekly at a café in Newtown. He's tall, lean and athletic looking. He looks like a goalkeeper. "Well I played junior soccer in Sydney. But I was always the full-back and had to defend my arse off", he laughs.

The movie follows a group of three young people on the dole who share a house in Marrickville. "It's literally a week in their life", says Mansfield. "It's about that



stage in your life when you've left high school for ten years, and you've been trying to maybe do something artistic. And the enthusiasm starts to wear off when you

haven't been successful. Everyone I know is in their late-twenties/early thirties, and life is not a barrel of laughs all the time."

While never depressing the film is gritty and uncompromisingly urban. It took Mansfield eight years to put together the project. The turning point was when 'Fresh Air' became the first of 'the Million Dollar Movies', projects funded jointly by the Australian Film Commission, SBS, Channel Four from the UK, and Showtime from the US.

Mansfield is an unashamed soccer nut, but sees no division between the worlds of film and sport. "To me football is art", he replies.

"If you go to Italy people like art and cinema, and they are also passionate about soccer. Here there is a real split between people who like art and cinema."

As a child Mansfield was woken in the middle of FA Cup final night by his father, a magical tradition from his childhood he still remembers. "You couldn't watch replays then; if you wanted to watch it you had to watch it live. I was in my pajamas watching soccer late at night. I loved that atmosphere."

Made during France 98, the World Cup was a big influence on *Fresh Air*. "Four years ago it was the same, except I was unemployed. I was going to the Sydney Film Festival during the day, watching maybe six films a day, then staying up late, taking in two World Cup matches, and not eating. It was incredibly inspiring. I would get up and write drafts of my film. In the daytime I was watching these pretentious films - which I love and in the nighttime I was watching soccer from the other side of the world."

The movie was made almost entirely in the inner-Sydney suburb of Marrickville, home of Soccer Weekly. "It's the first time a film has been made there", says Mansfield, who lives in the suburb, along with several of the cast. "Like soccer, Marrickville is very multicultural."

Keen eyed cinema goers will notice actor Marin Mimica getting excited by footage from the Asian qualifiers. Mansfield approached even this with a careful movie maker's eye. "The easy thing to do was to put all the goals in. But goals are such a minor part of watching a soccer match. So there is one shot where the TV is mostly green with just these legs at the top. And that to me is what the film is like. It's not about the goals, it's about the everything in between."

In one scene a barber is watching soccer in his shop. "You'll notice that he's watching it on a black and white TV. One of the facts that came out of last year's World Cup is that it's the biggest TV event in the World, but 50% of the world watches it on B&W TV. I think that's amazing."

*Fresh Air* has received rave reviews for its cinematography and art direction: short snippets of action shot on different formats and spliced together in a raw and exciting way. Many have compared it to a fanzine; but Mansfield offers a different explanation. "We wanted it shot in an unconventional way. I really like the Premier League coverage [on SBS]. Look at how adventurous that is, compared to cinema which has become quite dull. Soccer coverage is amazing. If you turn the sound down and look at the content, it's more adventurous than any Hollywood movie. They have these tricky wipes and freeze-frames. I wanted to make a film like that."

With a soundtrack featuring Screamfeeder, Kim Bowers, and Atticus, the movie will appeal



Nadine Garner (left and above) from the movie *Fresh Air*

unashamedly to the Triple J audience. Nadine Garner gives her most convincing performance yet, and in Bridie Carter, who lights up the screen, a new Australian star has been born. "She was great" agrees Mansfield. "Bridie is our secret weapon. I was thinking - why have WE discovered this girl? She is such a major talent."

As we get up to leave, Mansfield asks if I still play football. When I tell him I do, he asks me to give him a call next time we play. He'd love to have a kick. A man with his heart in the right place.

The charming folks at RB Films have donated three prize packs of *Fresh Air* CDs, fanzines, movie passes and one-day Sydney Travel Cards (so you can travel to a game and the movie).

Read next week's Soccer Weekly for details of how you can win these prizes.

# VALLE OF THE RAMS

By Eva Loukas

He has played with one of the biggest clubs in Chile, had a stint with Montreal in the North American A-League, played for the Chilean national team in two World Cups and rubbed shoulders with the likes of soccer greats Zamorano, Raul, Salas and De la Pena. All this and Dion Valle is still a month and a half shy of his 22nd birthday.

With references from fans about his

Herculean style, this long haired central defender, currently stamping his authority in the New South Wales Super League with the Macarthur Rams, has had a career that any soccer player would love to call his own.

With a Chilean-born father and his mum hailing from North America, Valle (pronounced Valley) went to Chile at the age of 13.

"I had a huge amount of luck in Chile", he says. "I was fortunate enough that everything came together for me when I was there. The team I was in when I first arrived

were the best in their league and I managed to move up into the first grade squad when I was 17".

Playing for Colo Colo in Chile meant that Valle had the chance to play in front of crowds most soccer players would only dream about performing for. "The biggest crowd I've played in front of was 64,000. And 64,000 Chileans is a lot more than 64,000 Australians because they're just fanatic about their soccer".

From the cauldron of South American soccer, Valle moved north of the border to Canada.

"I left Chile in 1996 and I went to America and played in the A-League there which is just beneath the U.S. Major League". Valle explains that, "because there were not a great number of teams in that league, two teams from Canada were incorporated into it". Valle played in Toronto for Montreal.

The next stop for this young, defender was Australia.

"I left Toronto because I was missing Australia. Also, I think the road to Europe from America is more difficult than it is from Australia".

And playing abroad again is certainly

on the cards for this young man but first, he is keen to make his mark in Australia's National League. "I would love to get into the National League this year", he says.

In fact, Valle was close to a move to Ericsson Cup side Perth Glory at the beginning of the season but as he explains, "it was bad luck that I didn't get into Perth

last season. Hopefully once the finals are finished and teams start thinking about next year something will come up. I'd like to play in the National League and if I do well enough then try to go to play in Europe".

And from all reports, Valle most certainly has what it takes to play in the Ericsson Cup.

"Dion is definitely good enough to play in the National Soccer League" says David Hayes, Football Manager of the Macarthur Rams.

The man who plays behind Valle at the Rams, John Crawley, also played in Chile. The two are good friends and Crawley was influential in the defender's move to Macarthur upon returning to Australia.

Valle is in his second season at the Rams and the team is doing very well, currently second on the ladder after leading the competition for much of the season. He has recently overcome an injury from last season and is happy with his form this year.

With such an extensive playing career already behind him, what more could there be to reveal about him? Actually, quite a lot.

Valle has represented Chile in two World Cups. The first time was in 1993 at the Under-17 World Cup in Japan where Chile finished an impressive third and Valle played in every game. Valle rates that as one of his career highlights.

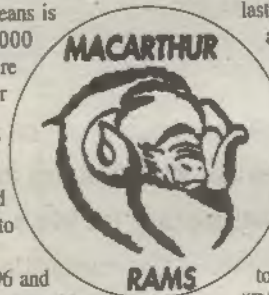
Quite an impressive achievement indeed and the accolades don't end there. He also played in the 1995 World Youth Championships in Qatar in 1995. "There's not many people who get to play in one World Cup let alone two and to come third like we did in Japan is pretty amazing".

It was in that tournament in Qatar where Valle got to mix it with the likes of Raul and De la Pena who today are some of the biggest names in world soccer. He adds that, "in Chile I played with Zamorano in an exhibition game and also with Marcelo Salas".

Away from the soccer field, Valle likes to occupy his time the same way so many other soccer players do, playing golf. "I love to play golf", he says. "It's relaxing and completely different to soccer".

Valle is also busy studying a Diploma in Health Science which he will complete at the end of the year.

Dion Valle - remember the name because he might just be lining up in the National League in the not too distant future.



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# Australian Features

## THE PLESAMACHINE!



**Richard Plesa ...**  
Is continuing a  
great Sydney  
United tradition  
of strong and  
reliable  
defenders

By Aidan Ormond

**T**o his girlfriend, perhaps understandably, he is a big softie with a warm and kind heart. To Ericsson Cup strikers Richard Plesa is anything but a pleasure. In fact, in cahoots with that old warhorse Vela Kupresak and Young Turk Joe Vrkic, he forms part of one of the meanest defensive tries in our domestic league.

While his Sydney United teammates have shared much of the glory of the season, but it is the unassuming Plesa, 23, who grabbed the headlines with a stunning 30 yard strike in the major semi-final first leg at South Melbourne.

"Yeah, that was the best goal, and most important, I have scored in my career," he says with just a hint of pride.

"Many have asked me about that goal against South. I was aiming for the target, but you don't really know

much more, it was just there to be hit."

For the former AIS student, it has been a long hard road this last five years at Sydney United, but his time at the nation's highly-regarded sports institute was something he feels has greatly benefited his career, and he now feels he is reaping the benefits.

"The AIS," he explains "was so professional. I learnt so much and I have been able to put into practice what many of the things they went through with me, such as diet and preparation, as well as onfield stuff."

After his scholarship he returned to Sydney where he hooked up with United.

"When I arrived at 17 there were so many good players, so I had to bide my time under Manfred (Schaefer) and also under Branko (Culina). I guess with Tony Popovic and Mark Babic, two great defenders, it was hard to play regular during my early years at the club — I was desperate to play, but this season I seem to have nailed down a spot." (Nailed down may be appropriate as he supplements his income with a little carpentry work).

As for the team this year, and the now well-known spirit of the players is the reason Plesa feels it has been such a successful campaign.

"There is more than the togetherness at the team this year. If you don't like the guy you are playing

with, then you won't play well as a team. We are all mates on and off the park.

"Mitch is like one of the boys and we respect him for that.

"You can't say we weren't worried about the financial side of things, but we just sat down together and tried to put these things to the back of our minds and concentrate on the job."

As for their rivals he is no doubt that to get over South Melbourne requires a collective approach: "South's strengths are all over the park. They have a good understanding of each other's games and are strong and fluent overall."

Should they win the Grand Final, the incentive has now been increased: "The World Club Championships is in the back of our minds. We have to do the Grand Final first. It's a good incentive however and obviously it would be good from a financial point of view.

So the inevitable question of an overseas shot must be thought of?

"Europe or in England would be the choice. Hopefully one day I will get my chance. To give it a go overseas is probably right for me given my age."

And for the final word, his girlfriend Sonya says she will support whatever move he makes. "It's his career," she says.

## OLE! SOCCER SPICE'S SPANISH TRIUMPH!

By Soccer Spice

**T**he previous Sunday saw my club side, the Spanish Club, post our first victory of the season. And how sweet a victory it was!

Having drawn 1-1 in the first round to Earlwood Wanderers in heavy conditions, we defeated a weak Hurlstone Parkside 4-0 at Ewen Park.

The goal scoring began early on, when our striker Jody Tropiano snuck a low one past the Hurlstone Park 'keeper. The consistently strong effort in midfield by Tina Christoforou ensured that service to the forwards was never lacking and as half time approached we were awarded a well deserved penalty due to a hand ball inside the box.

Central midfielder Raquel Munoz, stepped up to clinically convert from the spot and put the side up 2-0. Feeling the full brunt of the hot mid-day sun, we became slightly fatigued and that, in turn, opened the door for some Hurlstone Park attacks.

The fine efforts of the defence though — Y. Tome, J. Gomez and C. Ioannou and particularly Munoz, who produced a quality save off the line, ensured that the score remained 2-0 at the break.

After the interval, we resumed with our strikers Machain and Tropiano combining well, with Tropiano adding another goal to her tally. Then, midway through the second half, a moment of glory was bestowed upon myself, in what I perceived to be the 'highlight' of the match.

Watching Tropiano and Machain (who likes to be called Battigoal) battling up front, I ran up from left midfield to assist them in their plight and found myself totally unmarked in the penalty area.

After a small scramble at the front post, the ball somehow found its way to me. Standing free in front of goal, visions of Ryan Giggs' goal earlier on in the week invaded my cerebral cortex and provided me with the inspiration to slam the ball in to the back of the net.

As my teammates ran from all areas of the pitch and the congratulatory hugs poured in, I stood my ground in a state of utter

amazement, or as the coach, Louie Petrovski, stated — surprise. I had been dumbfounded by what had happened but it felt splendid. I could picture the global headlines "SENIOR SOCCER SPICE SEALS VICTORY" and "SPICY FINISH FOR SPANISH STAR". Then I remembered. It was not the World Cup... or the premier league... or the Serie A.

It was the Canterbury Association and it WAS a goal. MY GOAL! And it was the ultimate feeling. I suddenly understood my reason for being. The heavens had opened up to me and the voice of God had propelled me towards my sole purpose — to score that goal! Unfortunately others were not in agreement with me on the divinity of my goal, namely coach Petrovski.

In his match summary, the coach drew some glory away from my goal, with what was probably a more correct description of it, saying "Soccer Spice did well to smack the back of the net with power and accuracy, albeit three yards away". Albeit three yards away?

OK, so it was from close range but aren't I allowed to imagine that it was a fabulous Pele style scissor kick, just for a week or two?

After that I will build my bridge and get over it and come to the realisation that it really was only three yards away. Regardless, it was a fine team effort.

Sadly though, coach Petrovski leaves for America soon and has handed the reigns over to Sydney Olympic striker "Stormin'" Norman Tome for a month. I shudder to think of the training

Mr Tome will subject us to. So if you do not hear from me for a long period of time... you will understand why. If anyone else is interested in "the winning feeling", do not hesitate to contact the manager Joanne Tome on 0412 137 004.

For now though, I propose that the new Australian anthem be along the lines of "My boots were made for scoring and that's just what they'll do. One of these days These boots are going to score against you!"

SC: V. Rota, J.Gomez, C.Ioannou, J.Ioannou, Y.Tome, R.Munoz, S.Taranto, M.Machain, J.Tropiano, T.Christoforou, K.Waterstone

COACH: Louie Petrovski  
MANAGER: Joanne Tome.



**Soccer Spice ...**  
despite being only three  
yards out, scored a world  
class goal.



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# Australian Features

## Juniors clinics: the communication factor

There is no doubting that the most appropriate people to run junior soccer clinics are the players and coaches of the senior teams.

They are looked up to by the kids; they are their idols, and naturally, the kids are more likely to listen attentively to them because of this.

They are also more likely to attempt to copy the tricks and moves of these players than somebody who is unknown to them.

However, though their technical and tactical knowledge is, without question, very suitable for these types of clinics, many of the players and coaches are unaware of the most effective ways to communicate with the children, or of developmental, emotional and other issues pertinent to these age groups.

I have even experienced coaching clinics where the players do not even seem really

example, the French national coach giving a clinic for 12 year old Australian boys with no interpreter. You may say that I am giving a silly example, but if an Australian soccer coach attempts to convey messages to youth in the same way as he would do adults, then in a way, it would be just as appropriate for him or her to be communication in French!

The kids will not be receiving the message that the coach is attempting to send! And then the clinic is useless for the

**Sports psychologist Kieran Morrow looks at the ever-increasing role of junior clinics, and how the communication of players to juniors may be the missing link in their effectiveness...**

to coach. The emotional development of youth soccer players needs to be addressed, as does the social development, and effective methods of communication with these groups.

While discussing coaching clinics, it is also suitable to ask those responsible for

objectives?

Well, the game of soccer has physical, technical, tactical, environmental, and mental aspects. Therefore, it would be assumed that these clinics should address parts of all these components to effectively develop the player.

However, I am sure that many would agree that although the technical, physical, and tactical skills of soccer are taught extensively, the mental and environmental skills relevant to soccer are addressed minimally, if at all.

How many clinics have you given or attended which have taught players how to communicate more effectively on and off the field?; explored correctly the goal setting skills of a youth athlete?; examined the factors relevant to improving the social and task cohesion of the soccer team?; or, investigated how homesickness can affect them as a soccer player and provided ways to counteract these effects?

I have seen advertisements for soccer clinics which claim to address sport psychology issues. Yet, on close examination of what this entails, most cover basic goal setting under a heading of 'motivation'.

This is a step in the right direction, but sport psychology for soccer covers so much more.

The soccer community agrees that there are many factors such as these that can affect the development of a soccer player, so why are they not regarded as important enough to include in the clinics?

Perhaps it is a belief

that these skills require school-like learning which the kids will not be motivated to do. If this is so, this is a misunderstood perception. Mental skills can be taught in very similar environments to those that soccer is played under.

In fact, it is often more effective to learn and practice mental skills in similar conditions to those of a game.

As well as this, mental skills can be taught via interactive learning rather than the 'chalk and talk' school environment method. It just takes some creativity to apply psychological theory to applied soccer situations.

A second reason for the minimal inclusion may be that the coaches and players are not knowledgeable themselves about these issues. If this is so, these people have a few options available.

They may read sport psychology text and apply what they read to the clinics.

Secondly, they may access the services of a qualified sport psychologist to educate and train the soccer players attending the clinics in conjunction with the coaches and players.

Thirdly, the sport psychologist may be employed to educate and guide the practice of the coaches and players giving the clinics so that they can be most effective.

Thus, if the coaches and current players are trained effectively on the relevant mental and environmental skills, and how to effectively communicate these issues to the players, while also giving regard to the developmental issues facing these age groups, then it only serves to improve the development of our soccer youth.

*Kieran Morrow is courtesy of Morrow Psychological Consulting, on 0413 66741263*



motivated themselves to be at the clinics. Thankfully, these are in the minority.

These issues are very relevant to the potency of these clinics. Imagine for

kid, and a waste of time for the coach.

To be more effective, the players and coaches require education and training appropriate to the age level of those they are

these clinics what the objectives of the clinics are. Most would agree that the purpose is to develop those who attend into better soccer players. If this is the purpose, then what specifically would be the

### VIDUKA IS THE REAL SCUD!

Mark Philipoussis will not want to play soccer with Australia's star striker from Celtic, Mark Viduka, in a hurry. You see, according to his publicity people, the V-bomber was playing penalty shootouts with The Scud, when one of his trademark rockets broke the tennis star's arm while he was in goal. This was some time ago at the AIS in Canberra.

Wonder if the Scud (pictured left) is working on a revenge?

Speaking of revenge, Viduka was out for some on the weekend when his Celtic played their rivals Rangers in the Scottish Cup Final. In the opposition ranks was another Aussie, Rangers' defender Tony Vidmar.



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# Australian Features



**Welcome, we are the Four Diegos. This week we talk to a former soccer star who is now putting on one of the biggest games in our history. Former Sydney United defender, and Socceroo Tony Popovic ...**



**Diegos:** "It's a long way from Australia, the lucky country, a land of sunburned bodies and gravel rash, to Japan, the land of the big red sun, raw fish and re-runs of Shintaro movies."

"Has playing for Sanfrecce improved your game and how have you taken to the different lifestyle?"

**Popovic:** "First of all, it's definitely improved my game. When you're coming from Australia, playing as a part time player, to a professional set up where you train every day, sometimes twice a day, you can see an obvious improvement."

"From a cultural perspective, it was really hard at first but I've now been here for two and a half years so I'm pretty well used to it now. The hardest thing was the language and food."

**Diegos:** "The Diegos found, when we did our stint in Japan, that the easiest way to build bridges was to go down to the nearest Karaoke bar and do 'Kung Fu Fighting' in harmony. You've obviously done the Karaoke thing — what's been the song and how has it gone down with the locals?"

**Popovic:** "I can't say that the songs were to good and I can guarantee that you wouldn't want to hear me sing. A night out for the boys here is, let's go out and have a few beers at the Karaoke bar. I must admit there's not a lot of in-tune songs being sung there."

**Diegos:** "Sanfrecce Hiroshima has invested heavily in Aussie soccer by recruiting the likes of Aurelio Vidmar, Hayden Foxe, former national coach, Eddie Thomson and yourself. It's a veritable anglo-bonza rat pack. How have the Japanese taken to Aussie soccer players and what do you think Australian players have brought to the game in the J-League?"

**Popovic:** "It's been good. We've all settled in quite well. The local players and the club have adapted to us. It obviously helps us to have three foreigners playing in the same team. We live in the same building so we go out a lot to eat together and mix socially a fair bit. We all get along so it all helps. From this closeness, we have developed a strong bond and style of play that is working very well."

**Diegos:** "Are the Japanese soccer journalists as hard hitting as the sleazy, tabloid, gutter press Four Diegos?"

**Popovic:** "To be honest, I'm not too sure. In a way, when we play a bad game, it's good not to be able to read the papers and not know what they are saying about you."

**Diegos:** "How have you handled the after match press conference in Japan? Have you unleashed a Paul Gascoigne burp or made mention of a 'Dead Dingo's Donger' yet?"

**Popovic:** "No not yet. The interpreters here try and keep us in check after matches. So there hasn't been any burps or 'Dingo's dongers' from me yet."

## TURNING

**Diegos:** "We know that they are quite a contained culture. Do Japanese soccer players 'spit the dummy' once they get back into the dressing room?"

**Popovic:** "Not normally but I think that we have converted a few of them. Corrupted might be a more apt word. So now when they get into the dressing room, if we've had a bad loss a few of the Aussie swear words start flowing, which, really in a strange way, makes me feel more at home."

**Diegos:** "You play in the same team with one of this country's best prospects, Hayden Foxe. How is he progressing? Is he starting to display some of his undoubted world class ability?"

**Popovic:** "I think so. He obviously had a long-term injury. Being out for a year, it takes a long time to get it all back. He now has his fitness back and is playing regularly. In the last two months he has started to display the confidence and ability that everyone hopes to see from him at the Olympic games."

**Diegos:** "Although performing miracles on the pitch, your old club, Sydney United continues to struggle financially off of it and there is some doubt as to whether they will continue beyond this season. As a former captain of the club, how does their plight make you feel?"

**Popovic:** "I've always had and always will have a soft spot for Sydney United. It's really nice to hear that they are doing so well on the field. I'm hoping that something will happen that's going to save the club. The boys have done exceptionally well anyway to win the minor premiership given the financial problems the club has had."

**Diegos:** "Spectators around the world celebrate in their own unique way. In Turkey, fans discharge live rounds of ammunition into the air. In Italy they invade the pitch and strip naked their favourite players, and in India they burn down the grandstand. How do the Japanese spectators celebrate?"

**Popovic:** "You'd be surprised. After a victory or a loss it's all the same. The supporters are always clapping and cheering. In Australia when you lose a game

you're usually pretty upset and you walk straight off the field but, in Japan, the custom is that you've got to go to the fans and wave to them whether you've won 3-0 or lost 3-0.

"We found that a little bit hard to accept but that's just the way it is in Japan. We've got to show our appreciation to the supporters no matter what happens, whether you win or lose."

**Diegos:** "Players from Japan have always been

# JAPANESE



Tony Popovic ... has improved out of a sight as a player, sadly his singing still needs work.

known for their pace, skill and scrupulously fair play, but have also been acknowledged for perhaps, not liking the physical stuff. You are a self-styled hard man.

"Do you tend to bully the local strikers, and have you been able to incorporate a bit of Asian martial arts into your hard-man repertoire. The cynical ninja-judo tackle from behind perhaps?"

**Popovic:** "The yellow cards that I keep getting seem to suggest that I do bully a bit."

"The local players are known for their skill and speed but it is known also that they may lack a bit physically

and mentally. At our club you'd be surprised, we've got a few hard boys. I'm not sure whether we've had anything to do with that but it's good to see."

**Diegos:** "Thanks Tony. Let us assure you — if you want to be a better Karaoke singer, you can! A couple of those ABBA songs would suit you down to the ground. Adios Amigo!"

**Popovic:** "Thanks Diegos. I heard you guys do a good 'Madonna — Like a Virgin' me, I think I'll stick to playing. Adios Amigos!"



J.LEAGUE

**The Four Diegos' are radio celebrities and soccer scribes on Melbourne's Stereo 97.4FM. Saturday 10am-12midday.**

**E-Mail 'The Diegos' on FourDiegos@bigpond.com.**



# SOCCER WOMAN

WITH JANENE MARIN IN CANBERRA

## WORLD CUP SQUAD NAMED

The twenty athletes selected to represent Australia at the 3rd FIFA Women's World Cup were announced at a special press conference yesterday at the AIS by National Coach Greg Brown.

Most noticeable is the large contingent of exciting new young blood selected for this the Matildas' most important campaign to date. Kelly Golebiowski, Peita-Claire Hepperlin, Amy Wilson and shadow member Dianne Alagich have more than made their mark since joining the squad at the AIS early this year.

Add to that Alicia Ferguson, and we have a trio of 17-year-olds, all still at school and about to take part in the biggest women's sporting event in world history.

Nine survivors from the 1995 World Cup have won selection to make a second appearance in 1999, a credit to their drive and resilience.

Amongst this group is veteran goalkeeper, Belinda Kitching given the nod ahead of AIS youngster Joanne Butland and another shadow athlete to win a place for USA '99.

What is certainly evident is that the shape of the Matildas

Team is ever evolving, so fierce is the competition at this stage of our international development.

The situation is accentuated by the full-time centralised program at the AIS, every training session and training match in essence's a test of each athlete's ability and character.

And yet it is also evident that it is not a 'closed shop', with new players working hard in their own home state academies and institutes to also break through.

The national league and national youth team are vital cogs in the whole process.

With twenty making the trip to the US, the next battle will be that for selection in the starting elevens. The challenge never wanes.

With an average age of 23.8 years and an average of international caps at exactly 30, our statistics on paper may not stack up next to a USA, Norway, China or Sweden, but our Matildas are confident and ready to defy tradition and reputation when it comes to the battle on the park.

## CONFIDENT AND CAPABLE

Selection time for a major world event is harrowing on everyone involved, especially in the confines of a full-time squad. There is elation and there are tears, there's relief and there's tragic sorrow. And there are the coaches who must deal with it all.

Injuries are an inevitable situation in any sporting outfit, and have influenced certain selections for this World Cup.

Suffering because injury has meant prolonged absences from the training pitch are captain Sonia Gegenhuber, Shelley Youman, and Kim Revell.

"Sonia and Shelley would be most disappointed that they've been injured and not able to play for the last month or so," said National Coach Greg Brown.

"We have lots of cover in their positions, and so that has come into play as well."

"Kim has been injured for such a long time, so she's nowhere near her best."

In the circumstances, she was always going to be a long shot. This will now give her a bit of time to prepare and get over her injury."

Brown added that Lisa Casagrande and Sharon Black have also been injured, but theirs are positions that don't have a lot of cover, and the physios have advised that they will be ready in time.

Number one goalkeeper Belinda Kitching is also recovering from ankle surgery and has now started back in training but Brown is not overly concerned that her rehabilitation is taking a little longer than anticipated.

"We've got a full month before the start, and it's a different sort of fitness for keepers."

With her experience and the way she's performed in her last games, the commanding Kitching has earned her spot.

The more difficult choice for Brown was the second goalkeeper, with both Tracey Wheeler and Joanne Butland playing very well.

Brown has never shirked from making the hard decisions, and the number of young players selected may seem a surprise to some. But Brown himself doesn't consider it an issue and is more than happy with the team dynamics.

"I think the young players are good enough, they're ready. I'm not too concerned about their lack of experience, because they're the type of players who don't fear reputation."

So age is not a concern, they can handle the pressure, and on the occasions when they have played, they looked very comfortable."

Likewise, at the other end of the scale, a player's World Cup experience has had no bearing in the Brown calculations.

"None of this has had any influence on the decisions. They're all fit, all playing very well, and all keen."

It does help that some have played at a World Cup before they can help the younger players prepare and tell them what to expect, so that's a bonus."

A team of twenty will inevitably see a large number serving their time on the bench. A team of this size has both its good and its not so good points, but it's a situation which will have no ill effects on the Australian Team.



Greg Brown ... confident that his squad of 20 would do Australia proud at the World Cup.

"I'll use players as much as I can. We've had 27 players all the time (at the AIS).

So they're used to waiting their turn, used to going on for part of a game, and doing their best whilst they are on the park.

We'll be putting the best eleven out there, and make sure those that don't play still get lots of work."

Now that the hard decisions have been made, the team can now concentrate on the World Cup specifics before their 31 May departure.

After a rigorous month of physically intensive work, training will taper down a bit and the focus will shift to more tactical work, set plays, work on finishing, and short and sharp work.

"I'm really happy the players I've got are fit and playing as well as they ever have."

They all know each other really well and work as a team because they've played together a lot. They know they're getting stronger and they're as fit as any other side out there.

These players are up for it, ready to go to the World Cup and excited by the prospect. I do feel this group is confident, and capable, of doing very well."

## LEADING PAIR

Classy striker and FIFA World All-Star Julie Murray has been named as World Cup captain, supported by Alison Forman in the role of Vice-Captain.

For Murray, the honour of captaincy completes the full circle in her sometimes up and down international career.

Murray also captained Australia's first World Cup finals appearance in 1995. Non-selection for the following two years would then have left Murray wondering if she would ever make another World Cup, let alone earn the captain's role again.

Murray is a natural leader and motivator on and off the park, and leads by example.

Revered for her knowledge and skill on the park, she is always willing to share that experience to help out her teammates.

Promotion of the sport is always included on her agenda, a pursuit to which she already devotes a good amount of her time.

Forman's selection as Vice-Captain is the midfielder's first leadership role with the Matildas. It is recognition of her professional attitude and enthusiasm which she has injected into the squad since returning from Deamark.

## MATILDAS WORLD CUP

### TEAM 1999

Player	Pos	State	Hometown	DOB	Caps	Status
Dianne ALAGICH	D	SA	Adelaide	12/05/79	5	Shadow
Traci BARTLETT *	D	ACT	Sydney	17/05/72	36	AIS
Sharon BLACK	M	SA	Adelaide	04/04/71	36	AIS
Lisa CASAGRANDE *	M	ACT	Lismore	29/05/78	52	AIS
Sarah COOPER *	D	ACT	Darwin	08/10/69	45	AIS
Alicia FERGUSON	F	QLD	Brisbane	31/10/81	13	AIS
Alison FORMAN * (V/Capt)	M	NNSW	Maitland	17/03/69	44	AIS
Kelly GOLEBIOWSKI	M	NSW	Sydney	26/07/81	10	AIS
Peita-Claire HEPPERLIN	M	ACT	Canberra	24/12/81	2	OAP
Angela IANNOTTA *	F	ACT	Albury	22/03/71	26	AIS
Belinda KITCHING	GK	QLD	Ipswich	15/07/77	28	AIS
Julie MURRAY * (Captain)	F	NSW	Canberra	28/04/70	57	AIS
Joanne PETERS	M	NSW	Sydney	11/03/79	23	AIS
Cheryl SALISBURY *	M	NNSW	Newcastle	08/03/74	44	AIS
Bridgene STARR	D	NSW	Newcastle	10/12/75	35	AIS
Kristyn SWAFFER	D	SA	Adelaide	13/12/75	23	OAP
Anissa TANN-DARBY *	D	NSW	Sydney	10/10/67	67	AIS
Amy TAYLOR	D	ACT	Canberra	11/06/79	14	AIS
Tracey WHEELER *	GK	WA	Sydney	26/09/67	33	Shadow
Amy WILSON	M	ACT	Canberra	09/06/80	7	OAP

\* denotes World Cup 1995 Team

## NORDIC CUP TEAM NAMED

In conjunction with the World Cup Team announcement, National Youth Coach Chris Tanzey named his 17-member Australian U21 Team to contest the Nordic Cup, widely regarded as the unofficial world youth event.

Event rules allow a maximum of two overage players within the team, up to 25 years of age, and Australia has taken advantage of this regulation.

The age eligible National Squad players who missed selection for the World Cup are all included in the Nordic Cup Team.

The team is still a very young side however, with an average age of just 18.6 years.

Of the 1998 Australian U19 Youth Team which toured The Netherlands last November, three are now on their way to the World Cup, and nine have been named in this Nordic Cup side.

As with the World Cup selections, new players have also forced their way into the team, performing well within their ITC and in national league.

All players not named in the Team but selected in the initial Nordic Cup Shadow Squad remain on standby for the event in Iceland, 1-9 August.

## AUSTRALIAN U21 NORDIC CUP

### TEAM 1999

Player	Pos	State	DOB	Status
Rachael ALLEY	D	NSW	15/11/82	Yth 98
Louisa BISBY	D	VIC	01/06/79	Yth 98
Megan BOND	M	QLD	11/12/80	Yth 98
Joanne BUTLAND	GK	QLD	24/11/78	AIS
Michelle CARNEY	F	NSW	30/12/82	Debut
Alicia CAVANAGH	M	NSW	18/07/80	Debut
Jessica HALFPENNY	F	SA	13/05/81	Yth 98
Cassandra KELL	GK	NSW	08/08/80	Yth 98
Georgette LEAKE	D	QLD	22/01/76	Shadow OAP
Tracie MCGOVERN	D	NNSW	21/04/78	OAP
Kate MCSHEA	M	QLD	13/04/83	Yth 98
Kimberley MORRIS	D	SA	07/10/81	Yth 98
Ana RUOTOLO	M	SA	31/08/81	Debut
Kim REVELL	M	QLD	16/03/75	AIS
Danielle SMALL	M	NNSW/USA	07/02/79	Yth 98
Natalie THOMAS	F	SA	03/05/78	AIS
Sarah WALSH	F	NSW	10/06/83	Debut



# MAY IS... ERICSSON CUP FINALS

Please note, these fixtures are supplied by Soccer Australia, and are correct at time of printing.

Please check local guides in case of changes.

We accept no responsibility for any late changes to fixtures, or incorrect information supplied to us.

## RESULTS

### MINOR SEMI

Perth Glory	1
Marconi	0

### MAJOR SEMI

(return leg)

Sydney United	0
Sth Melbourne	0

\*South Melbourne through to Grand Final in Melb.

## THIS WEEK

(Finals Series: Week 4)

Preliminary Final

**Sunday May 23**

**Sydney Utd v**

**Perth Glory**

**Marconi Stadium**



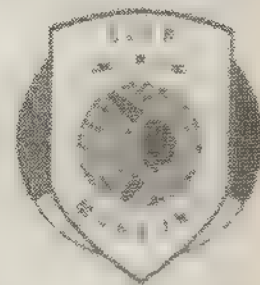




# ERICSSON CUP MINOR SEMI FINAL



## GLORIOUS NIGHT FOR AUSTRALIAN SOCCER



### RECORD CROWD AND MASSIVE MEDIA INTEREST IN PERTH

#### PERTH GLORY

Farah og 21

#### MARCONI FAIRFIELD

At The WACA, Perth

Minor Semi-Final

1

0

By Richard Kreider

A second half assault from Marconi Fairfield failed to prevent Perth Glory from qualifying for next week's Preliminary Final against Sydney United after a narrow 1-0 result at the WACA Ground last Saturday night.

A cruel own-goal by Marconi defender Buddy Farah after 21 minutes proved to be the only difference between the two sides in a game where only wayward strikes, and excellent goalkeeping from Tony Franken, prevented the Perth side from securing a more comfortable victory.

Such is the impact Glory has had on this predominantly Aussie Rules state of Western Australia, a picture from the game made the front page of the Sunday Times together with a glowing comment in its editorial.

Despite the result and its importance, Perth Glory coach Brend Stange was not entirely delighted with the win.

"We couldn't find the right combination in our play and the players had trouble with the bounce of the hard surface, but I cannot be disappointed with the result can I," he said.

In traditional fashion, Glory burst out of the stalls in their quest for an early breakthrough but the stubbornness of Marconi's rearguard, in particular Mark Babic, Dominic Longo and Buddy Farah, and perhaps the imposing 27,548 crowd hindered Glory's route on goal.

The first serious move fell to the home side after 19 minutes when John Markovski sent a searching yet



Gareth Naven led his side superbly at the WACA on Saturday night.

accurate centre to Scott Miller who directed his downward header the wrong side of the upright from eight metres.

Glory however, found themselves a goal in front just a minute later, when a menacing centre from Jamie Harnwell required punching away by Covic for a corner.

Troy Halpin took the resultant corner to perfection as it floated to the near post where a gaggle of players put keeper Covic under some pressure — defender Buddy Farah made a vain attempt to clear the ball after it sailed across the goal-line, only to bulge the roof of his net with his attempted clearance.

The Stallions' best opportunity to equalise came four minutes into first-half stoppage time when a Zeljko Babic ground-shot required a smart save to Tony Franken's left.

Perth's lively and relentless midfielder Gareth Naven was again inspirational out of midfield — the big match suiting his temperament and leadership ability.

Referee Brett Hugo frustrated both players and supporters alike by continually halting play for free-kicks that could have easily been ignored.

The Stallions pilled on the pressure after the break, but the Sydneysiders couldn't find a way to subdue

#### MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 27,556

Referee: B Hugo

Perth Glory: Franken, Trajkovski, Miller, Hay (Circati 45), Harnwell, Deans, Naven, Halpin, Markovski (Edwards 73), Despotovski, Boulsianis (Strudwick 82)

Marconi Fairfield: Covic, Gibson, Babic, Longo, Care, Trajanovski 53, McDonald, Babic, Farah (V Zenc 80), Awantete, Renaud, Hooker (Phillips 67)

#### Yellows

Perth Glory: S Miller 35, D Hay 40

#### Votes Player of the Year

3 Naven (PG)

2 Franken (PG)

1 S Babic (MF)

Glory's defiant tall timber of Danny Hay, Craig Deans and Italian import Gianfranco Circati.

After substitute Vlado Zenc struck the side-netting from a crucial free-kick in the 85th minute, Perth Glory's star striker and last week's hero, Bobby Despotovski, should have sealed the issue two minutes later when he glanced an Alistair Edwards left-side cross just wide of the mark.

The crowd behind the goal was on its feet in anticipation of the coup de grace — it didn't happen but they were on the feet moments later when the ref blew the whistle on an exciting and memorable night for Perth Glory and Australian Soccer.

## Supporter Views

By Dennis Jorland, Dentist and new Glory fan

What was all the fuss going around town about the Glory? Everywhere I turned throughout the week all I heard was Glory, Glory, Glory.

The only Glory that I associate with Perth is when the West Coast Eagles pull a victory over one of the Melbourne teams.

I had seen on the news that the Perth Glory had won a game last week but I hadn't realised that the win had put the team into a finals game this weekend to be played in Perth.

Late Saturday afternoon I was given a call by a friend who practically begged me to go to the big game with him seeing that he had a spare ticket.

"What do I know about soccer?" I reluctantly accepted and as we drew closer to the game I somehow began to feel nervous about the night.

Upon arriving at the WACA, I was shocked by the amount of people flocking towards the ground. I know soccer isn't the most popular sport in Australia but the cue to get into the ground was huge.

We entered the ground where to my amazement we found a WACA ground filled to capacity, in fact it was the biggest crowd I had ever witnessed at the ground.

The atmosphere in the air was electric and I was so compelled to the Glory cause that I even grabbed myself a scarf to keep warm.

As the players entered the field an almighty roar soared over the ground which shook the grandstands.

I had watched games on television but nothing had compared to this, my first big soccer game happened to be the biggest game in the Glory's short history in the league.

The game started with a huge roar of approval by the crowds and from the start it was plain to see who the crowd were cheering for.

We started off great and it wasn't long

before the crowd and myself got stuck into the referee and the Marconi players.

And then after 25 minutes of great action, the moment which rocked Perth and its surrounding districts happened when a corner by the Glory was put into the net by a Marconi player.

The scenes around the ground were amazing. There were people jumping on top of each other, people falling on top of each other and people even crying.

The chant of "Glory, Glory, Glory" went around the WACA continuously including during the half time break.

The second half was much the same of the first with Perth attacking with Marconi on the back foot.

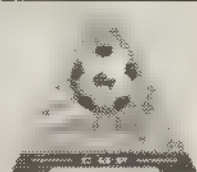
The crowd started to whistle at something, I guess they were tired of







# ERICSSON CUP SECOND LEG MAJOR SEMI FINAL



## SOUTH DO THE BUSINESS



### BACK-TO-BACK TITLES NOW A REAL CHANCE FOR BLUES

**SYDNEY UNITED 0**  
**SOUTH MELBOURNE 0**  
At Edensor Park, Sydney  
Major Semi Final Return Leg

By Ben Cubby

**R**eigning Australian champions South Melbourne qualified for their second successive grand final by holding Sydney United to a thrilling scoreless draw in the second leg of the Major Semi-Final at Edensor Park on Sunday.

Both sides had chances to win the game, but in the end South did enough to contain the potent Pumas strikeforce and claim a 2-1 victory on aggregate. The result means South Melbourne are now one game away from retaining their crown, while United must face Perth Glory in the Preliminary Final at Marconi Stadium next week.

After the match, delighted South Melbourne coach Angie Postecoglou said "we came here to do a job and we did it well. The players did fantastically...I'm very proud of the way we played. We've never been to two grand finals in row before — we're very pleased to be there".

Sydney United dominated possession in the early stages of the game, with Nathan Day probing busily up front. Fellow forward Mile Sterjovski turned past his marker in the 9th minute, but slipped on the turf before



Con Blatsis — a welcome return to first team duty for the hugely talented defender. See his interview with Eva Loukas next week.

he could exploit the advantage.

Tensions rose to the surface in the 12th minute when a scuffle broke out between Jacob Burns and Steve Panopoulos. Players from both sides converged on the incident, but referee Gerry Connolly calmly sorted things out without finding it necessary to reach for his book of cards.

The first clear chance of the match fell to United after 17 minutes. Day cut a low cross back from the byline to Sterjovski, who stretched but couldn't quite make contact in front of an open goal.

South Melbourne stopper Con Blatsis almost gave his team the lead in the 29th minute when his powerful header struck the underside of the bar and rebounded down just outside the goal line before being desperately cleared over the bar.

Sydney United were living dangerously again moments later when Blatsis sent a long throw arching into the 18 yard box. United defender Joe Vrkic got his head to the ball but the clearance trickled just wide of an unguarded far post.

A confident take by Sydney 'keeper Mike Gibson gave his backline breathing space, and the side began to find some rhythm, feeding the ball to Burns and Walter Ardone in the middle of the park. Dave Barrett pressured Melbourne fullback Fausto De Amicis down the right flank, but found Michael Petkovic in commanding form whenever he was able to cross the ball.

South skipper Paul Trimboli carved out a chance for Michael Curcija in the 38th, only for the Olyroo to smash his shot high over the bar. Curcija found space again three minutes later but, under pressure from Richard Plesa, he shot tamely at Gibson.

Michael Petkovic sustained a headwound just before half-time when challenged for a high ball by Burns. The ball broke loose to Walter Ardone, who fired in a shot from 25 metres, but the 'keeper staggered to his feet to pull off a save.

Sydney United came out after the break knowing that they had to score. Sterjovski and the industrious Steve Berry sent shots wide soon after the restart, but Blatsis, Nick Orlic and Steve Iosifidis in the South Melbourne defence stifled many attacking moves.

The big home crowd hushed in anticipation as Ardone lined up a free kick near the edge of the box in the 53rd minute. A wall of blue shirts deflected the ball out to the waiting Peter Bennett, whose dipping shot was again comfortably dealt with by Petkovic. The Pumas seemed to be inching closer and closer to a goal.

South Melbourne had other ideas, though. Trimboli released Vaughan Coveny with a long ball in the 59th minute. The lanky striker zeroed in on goal but, with the unmarked Curcija calling for the ball at the far post, he scuffed his shot wide.

A mistake by South defender Steve Iosifidis almost gifted United a precious goal four minutes later. He sent an indecisive backpass towards Petkovic, Sterjovski pounced and then beat the 'keeper with a low shot. The ball seemed destined to find the net, but instead clipped the outside of the post and rolled wide.

Sydney United coach David Mitchell added some pace to his forward line by sending on Joel Griffiths and Danny Townsend, but they couldn't penetrate the stacked South Melbourne defence. The match evolved into a pattern of attack and frantic counter-attack, neither side able to break the deadlock.

A huge clearance by Petkovic found Coveny in the

#### MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 11,579

Referee: Gerry Connolly

**Sydney United:** Gibson, Barrett (Townsend 72), Kupresak, Plesa, Vrkic (A. Monic 85), Bennett, Berry, Ardone, Burns, Sterjovski, Day (Griffiths 60).

**South Melbourne:** Petkovic, Iosifidis, De Amicis, Orlic, Blatsis, Panopoulos, Coveny, Trimboli (Anastasiadis 79), Curcija (Tsekiris 60), Polak (Liparoti 89), Goutzioulis.

#### Yellow

Sydney United: Bennett 74th

#### Players Votes of the Year:

- 3 Blatsis (SM)
- 2 Kupresak (SU)
- 1 Panopoulos (SM)

90th minute. He laid the ball off to substitute John Anastasiadis who drilled his shot wide with only Gibson to beat. At the other end of the park, Richard Plesa tried another long-range effort but, unlike his scorchers last week, it wasn't to be.

Gerry Connolly's final whistle signalled the beginning of wild celebrations amongst the small, faithful band of South Melbourne supporters, and dejection amongst the home fans.

Sydney United midfielder Walter Ardone was bitterly disappointed after the game. "You only get a few chances against South Melbourne — you have to put them away", he said.

"The best strikers in the world miss chances", said United coach David Mitchell, defending his team's performance. "Abbas Saad is not fit, but I'm not looking for any players. It was a very difficult game for us today".

Looking forward to the preliminary final against Perth, he said "It'll be difficult but it's at Marconi stadium, which is almost home. We're well capable of getting into the final".

The jubilant Ange Postecoglou tipped Sydney United to overcome Perth: "you've got to favour the home side...Perth's been on an emotional rollercoaster for the last few weeks.

"We had some great chances today...the boys worked so hard defensively that when we went forward we didn't have the energy".

South Melbourne's beaming captain Paul Trimboli said "it was a tough game — there was a lot of body contact...they've shown that type of commitment all year and so have we.

"You don't get to grand finals without everyone working towards the same thing. I'm sure our crowd will come out in Melbourne", he ended.

The game will be played at Olympic Park, the scene of their triumph last year over Carlton.



Vladimir Kupresak — typically stoic at the heart of the Puma backline.





# WHAT THEY ARE SAYING ABOUT THE FINALS ....

with Aidan Ormond



## THE BOND IS STRONG SAYS AMICIS

**D**e Amicis, roughly translated, is friends in Italian. And for Fausto De Amicis, this bond, this family feeling, is what is getting the South family through to its second consecutive Grand Final. And the Sydney United draw was executed under difficult emotional circumstances.

"Extremely tough, but we pulled through. We have certainly grown up together, we are like family, and our thoughts are with David and his family at this time. We did it for David today. The players went through the game for 'Clarky'. We were devastated when we heard the news ... we stand up for each other," said De Amicis after the game.

"We are always spending time with each other outside of playing and training and that is the mark of a great team. There are no individuals, we are a team with a strong feeling that we are in this together."

De Amicis added that the psychological edge was now swinging in their favour given their recent results against both Sydney Utd and Perth Glory.

"In reality though, most of us are just thinking about the Grand Final, things like the World Club Championships are not in the front of our minds, but sure, it sounds great and if we win the Grand Final that would be very special playing in such a prestigious tournament."

Will the break affect you, given that you also had two weeks off before the first leg game?

"No, it actually helps you. Just like last year it gives us a chance to fully prepare, get over any niggling injuries and rest up."

**"W**e tried hard, but it was one of those days when our finishing let us down. Mile (Sterjovski) shouldn't be blamed for any misses, if it wasn't for him we probably would not be here today in the finals. You can't win them all," was how Sydney United's tyro

midfielder Danny Townsend summed up that disappointing end to Sunday's return leg with South.

So where did it all go wrong?

"South plugged up the defence and made it difficult for us. Maybe a little bit of stage fright before but I don't think it was a major point."

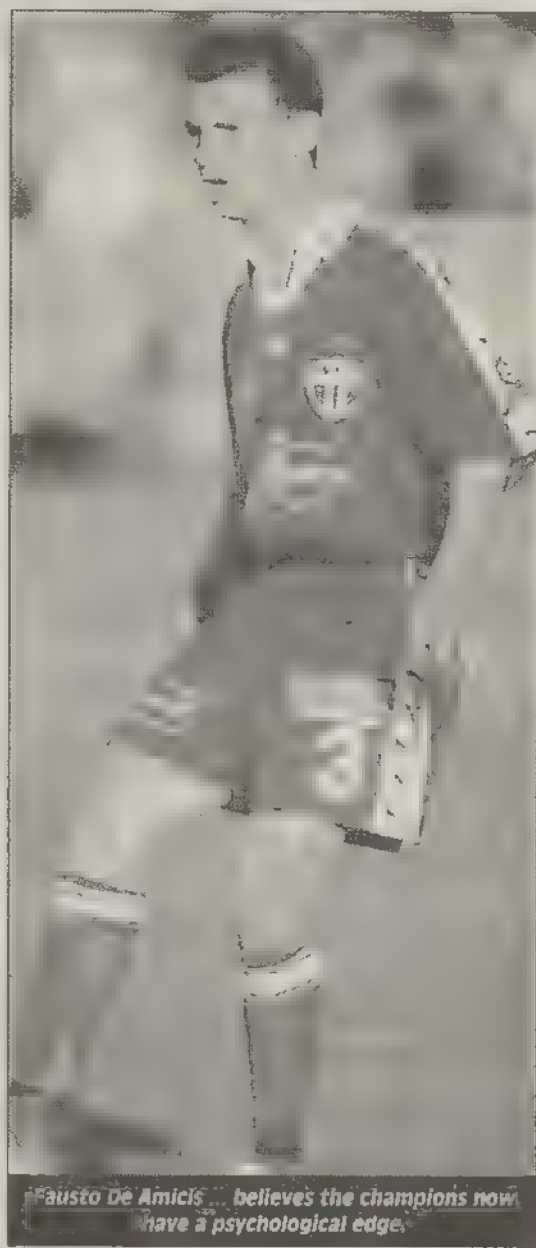
"The dressing room was like a morgue after the game."

"As for the atmosphere, well it was just fantastic. It's good for the club to get a turnout, if we did not today we never will."

"To win next week," he explained "I think we just have

to do the simple things well, today, balls weren't going to feet. When we played Glory a month ago they had four chances and they scored four, while we had about 15 and scored three."

"With Glory I think we have the measure of them, perhaps in defence they could be a little weak and our guys may be able to exploit that this week," he added.



Fausto De Amicis ... believes the champions now have a psychological edge.

"We heard about the situation with David Clarkson before the game and the players, the club and supporters' feelings and thoughts are with him," added one of the finds of the season.

"Last weekend the two children of South player David Clarkson were involved in a car accident. At the time of going to press both were in critical condition. Our thoughts and prayers are with them, Dave Clarkson and his family."



Goran Lozanovski ... see his interview with the Four Dicks next in Soccer Weekly

## LEFORT: SOCCER HAS TAKEN OVER PERTH!

**F**or these last few weeks Perth has been transformed into a genuine Soccer City, with the success of the Glory powering a massive media spotlight virtually unheard of in our national league.

Visionary General Manager at the Glory, Roger Lefort, has been basking in the unprecedented success of his new guard of Australian Soccer, but even he has been pleasantly surprised.

"It was huge," he observed the day after the big game at the WACA. "Media has been unbelievable, every TV station has been doing live crosses virtually every night."

"There has been a four and five page lift out in the press (the West Australian newspaper), and their leading page has had plenty of Glory stories."

"Every single person was talking Glory in Perth, the fans seemed to be everywhere, they were all wearing their supporters' gear, it's just like a Grand Final."

"I can't tell you how good it has felt," pushed Lefort. "I think that the club and players have worked hard and they deserve the success they are now achieving."

"You can now see the potential for Soccer in Australia if we can get 28,000 — and we could have easily got 35,000 at the WACA if there was the room!"

"We have had a lot of people who have never been to soccer, and now these people are talking soccer. It's good for the game, and hopefully this is where the other clubs can now take advantage," he stressed.

"There is always an incentive to win the Ericsson Cup, but with the new World Club Championships, anybody would love to be on

the world stage, what a way to show your talents."

"Richard Court (WA Premier) has now gone public and he said that the new Stadium will be built, which will be started next year."

Looking ahead to Sunday's game and he feels their record justifies feeling somewhat confident: "We have a

great record at Marconi, we have never been beaten

there, so to win a Grand

Final we need to beat

both these sides, it doesn't matter who comes first, we just have to win these two games," he emphasised.

"I would expect some fans to be coming across, but there is a huge support for us nationally."

"Fans seem to come out of the woodwork when we travel away. It's amazing

"And if we can get those Spirit fans supporting us in Sydney, that would be superb. We will have to bring over some more Glory caps!" ended an ebullient Lefort.



## ABC EDITING? IT'S BACK TO THE FUTURE

**T**he continuity award of the week goes to ABC Soccer for Saturday night's Glory v Marconi. It was two minutes in of the telecast, then, suddenly, it was 22 minutes to go with the score 1-0 and an out of breath Robbie Hooker was being snubbed. Shortly after it was back to the first few minutes?

Almost as bad as the cross to Hindmarsh Stadium a few weeks ago when the ABC presenter in Adelaide sat like a stunned mullet, staring blankly at the screen like a rabbit caught in the headlights (just to mix metaphors).

Eight cents a day? It's a rip off!

### Preliminary Final

- Shall be played strictly on a knockout basis.
- If the scores remain level at the conclusion of normal playing time, then Extra Time of 15 minutes each way will be played.
- Should either team score during this period, the game will immediately conclude and the team who scored shall be declared the winner.
- If no team scores during the Extra Time period, then the match will be determined by penalty kicks in accordance to FIFA instructions.
- The losing team shall be eliminated.
- The winning team shall proceed to the Grand Final.

### Grand Final

- If the scores remain level at the conclusion of normal playing time, then Sudden Death Extra Time of 15 minutes each way will be played.
- Should either team score during this period, the game will immediately conclude and the team who scored shall be declared the winner.
- If no team scores during the Extra Time period, then the match will be determined by penalty kicks in accordance to FIFA instructions.
- The winner of the Grand Final shall be declared the Champions of the Ericsson Cup.

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# National Youth League

Argon Video Productions

## SOUTHERN DIVISION GRAND FINAL

Saturday 15 May 1999

Carlton .....1      Gippsland Falcons .....0  
(Ace Stojceviski)



### League Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlton	24	17	4	3	72	26	55
South Melbourne	24	14	3	7	44	25	45
VIS	24	11	6	7	47	33	39
Gippsland Falcons	24	10	4	10	43	34	34
Melbourne Knights	24	9	3	12	44	53	30
Bulleen Inter Kings	24	8	5	11	29	44	29
Albury Wodonga	24	1	3	20	20	84	6

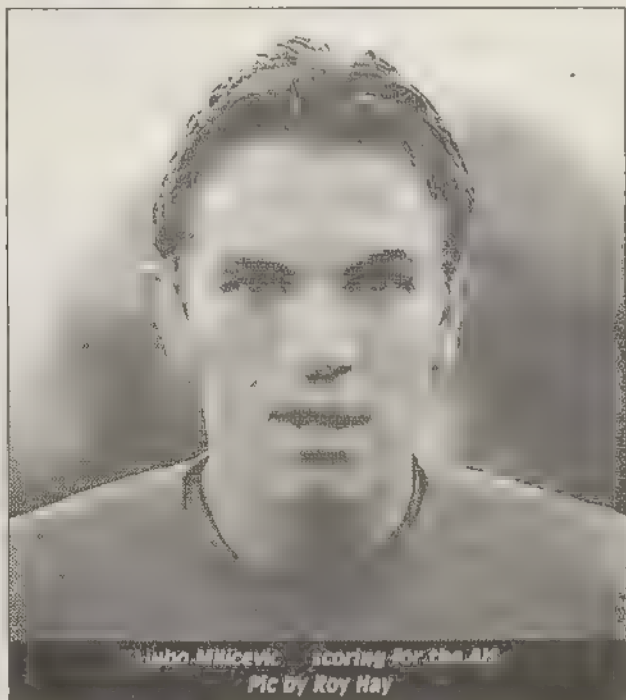
(Games not played recorded as 0-0)

**S**outhern Division ... Carlton is the champion of the Southern Division after a hard-fought one-nil win over Gippsland Falcons at Anderson Park on Saturday.

The only goal came from a penalty expertly converted by Ace Stojceviski after 20 minutes. Matches between these clubs over the last couple of years have usually gone in Carlton's favour but have always been close and the result uncertain till the end.

Carlton had keeper Steve Tilovski to thank for its victory, who kept his concentration and made the critical saves when he had to do so. At one stage Gippsland had Carlton under the hammer but gradually the latter reasserted itself as the match wore on.

Serdar Pir in midfield and defender Mathew Nikolic, promoted from the Colts this year, also had excellent games for the winner. Manager Ian Perri pointed out that five youth players were in the senior side by the end of the season, yet the team had gone on to win the Southern Division for the first time.



Ljubo Milicevic, scoring for Carlton  
Pic by Roy Hay

Carlton will play the South Australian champion with the winner taking on the Northern Division champion in two weeks time in the Final Inter-Divisional Play-off probably as the curtain raiser to the Ericsson Cup Grand Final.

### LEADING SOUTHERN SCORERS

Andrew Mashorian	South Melb	17	Tony Gukarin	Carlton	13
Deniz Ekici	Carlton	15	Angelo Motsiopoulous	VIS	10

## NORTHERN DIVISION

### Preliminary Final

Sunday 9 May 1999

AIS .....4      Northern Spirit .....2  
(Ljubo Milicevic, Joshua Kennedy, Kevo Gulesserian, Grant Last)      (Ryan Griffiths, Adam Griffiths)

### Forthcoming matches

### Play-offs

### Inter-Divisional Play-Off

Sunday 23 May 1999

Carlton v South Australian Champion  
(Venue, time to be announced)

## GRAND FINAL

Sunday 23 May 1999

Sydney Olympic v AIS

(Venue, time to be announced)



Michael Turnbull  
AIS keeper.

### League Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AIS	28	20	7	1	103	19	67
Sydney Olympic	28	20	4	4	89	30	64
Northern Spirit	28	20	2	6	68	24	62
Newcastle Breakers	28	18	5	5	62	29	59
Marconi Fairfield	28	17	5	6	78	26	56
NSWIS	28	17	3	8	69	33	54
Wollongong Wolves	28	17	2	9	85	35	53
QAS	28	15	2	11	72	44	47
Sydney United	28	12	4	12	59	48	40
Marconi Fairfield Colts	28	8	5	15	35	48	29
ACTAS	28	7	3	18	38	73	24
Northern Spirit Colts	28	4	3	21	23	102	15
Sydney Olympic Academy	28	3	5	20	26	99	14
Sydney United Colts	28	4	1	23	29	97	13
Wollongong Wolves Colts	28	1	3	24	15	142	6

**N**orthern Division ... The AIS beat Northern Spirit by four goals to two in the Northern Division Preliminary final. The goals were shared around by the AIS with Ljubo Milicevic, Joshua Kennedy, Kevo Gulesserian and Grant Last (left) all on target.

The Northern Spirit reply came from two headed goals by Ryan and Adam Griffiths, but this was not enough to stem the AIS charge to the Grand Final.

The Spirit felt it got on the wrong end of some refereeing decisions, but having led the ladder for most of the season the AIS probably deserved its chance to have a rematch with Sydney Olympic in the Northern Division Grand Final next week-end.

If this match is played as the curtain raiser to the Ericsson Cup Preliminary Final between Perth Glory and Sydney United at Marconi Stadium on Sunday, then

the fans should make an effort to get there early for it will be a cracker.

### LEADING NORTHERN SCORERS

Mark Haggard	Marconi	24
Kevo Gulesserian	AIS	21
Simon Catanzaro	NSWIS	20
Daniel Kukocka	Sydney United	16

Note: Apart from goals in matches played this week, the goalscorers as given here are from Soccer Australia official data.

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AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH

# AUSTRALIAN & SOCCER WEEKLY



tory stretching back to 1872, the tournament, and particularly the final, never fails to capture the imagination of the entire soccer world.

Two historical FA Cup giants meet in this year's showpiece. Alex Ferguson's Manchester United, nine-time winners of the trophy, and Newcastle United, the six-time winners now managed by Ruud Gullit, clash at Wembley on Saturday.

Manchester United find themselves chasing history after clinching the league title for the fifth time in seven years. They now seek to secure the English league and cup double for a record third time.

Ferguson would like nothing better than travelling to Barcelona for the UEFA Champions League final in search of an unprecedented treble.

The Red Devils endured an arduous route to the final. After coming from a goal down to defeat Middlesbrough in the third round, they then staged one of the great FA Cup escapes against Liverpool in their fourth round tie.

Trailing to a Michael Owen goal with just two minutes remaining in the match, Dwight Yorke equalised and then Ole Gunnar Solskjaer grabbed an injury-time winner.

After dispatching Kevin Keegan's Fulham 1-0 in another home tie, they faced fellow league title aspirants Chelsea in the quarterfinals. After a tense goalless draw at Old Trafford, United dismantled Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, courtesy of two strikes from Yorke.

The drama continued in the semifinals. Facing Arsenal at Villa Park, United saw Roy Keane's legitimate strike disallowed for offside on the way to another goalless draw. Three days later, they returned to the same venue and clinched victory in one of the most dramatic cup matches of all time.

David Beckham opened the scoring before Dennis Bergkamp equalised via a deflected shot. With United reduced to ten men following the dismissal of Keane, Bergkamp stood over a

## DARYL ENGLISH F.A. SATURDAY

**V**ery few soccer competitions possess the tradition and prestige of the English FA Cup. With a his-

penalty kick that seemed certain to settle minutes from full time.

However, United's Danish goalkeeper, Peter Schmeichel, saved the match to extra time. As the sides tired, Patrick Vieira and embarked on a run that took United to their fifth final in ten years.

Wembley has been almost a second home for United, but it has also produced a poor performance on the hallowed turf.

Wide men Beckham and Giggs have been as good as the prolific strike pairing of Yemi Adegboye and Paul Scholes will be impacted before sitting out the Champions League suspension.

United will also hope to have key Dutch midfielder Ronny Johnsen in the centre of defence, but with Denis Irwin cruelly ruled out following a sending off at Anfield in a league match.

Significantly, Saturday will see Schmeichel's last game in England. After eight years of



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## NEWCASTLE UTD V



## KATZ' PREVIEW

# FA CUP FINAL 1999

DAY 22 MAY 1999

the tie in favour of the London side just two  
ter Schmeichel, saved the spot-kick and took  
d, Ryan Giggs intercepted a loose pass from  
culminated in one of the great FA Cup goals  
s.  
me for United this decade and they rarely  
ed turf.

devastating all season,  
orke and Andy Cole.  
desperate to make an  
s League final due to

defender Jaap Stam fit  
f defence, particularly  
ing his controversial

's final appearance for  
sterling service, this  
d provide his  
mates with additional  
ive.

ough they have  
red fatigued in recent  
due to a congested

list, United will not be short on motivation.  
t's Newcastle have had a quieter and less  
ng road to the final.

disposed of troubled Crystal Palace in the  
round and Bradford City in the fourth, both  
ayed at St James Park.

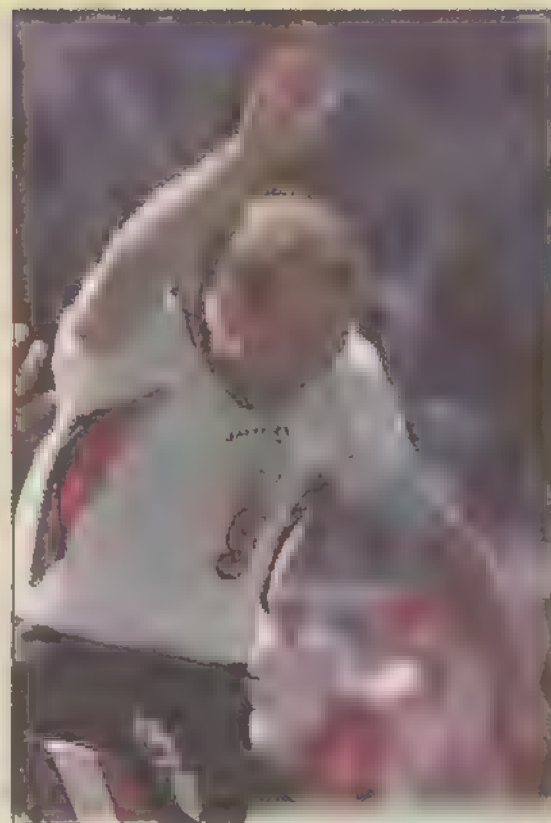
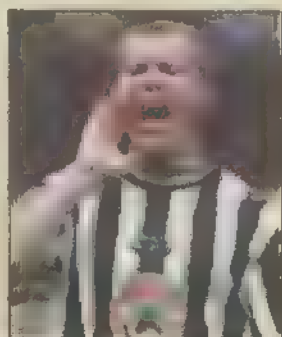
were taken to a replay before defeating  
urn Rovers 1-0 following a goalless draw,  
then demolished Everton  
the quarterfinal stage.

Shearer produced an  
ed performance in the  
final at Old Trafford,  
g twice as Newcastle  
ame George Graham's  
ham Hotspur.

castle have had a

turbulent recent history. While the Kevin  
Keegan era brought excitement and  
champagne football, the side twice fell just  
short of championship glory.

Kenny Dalglish's brief reign brought them  
a step closer to silverware with an FA Cup  
final appearance, only to see a woeful



Wembley performance in last year's  
final allow Arsenal to complete the  
league and cup double.

Now, as Newcastle return to the  
scene of their dismal failure twelve  
months ago, they will be desperate to  
salvage something from an otherwise  
disappointing season. Trophy success  
would be just reward for the loyalty of  
their long-suffering fans.

The Magpies will rely on Gary Speed,  
long-serving Robert Lee and German  
international Dietmar Hamann to  
dominate in midfield and supply the

ammunition for the strike pairing of Shearer and, if fit, Duncan Ferguson (flu).

Shearer, the captain, is in fine goalscoring form and has been a major force throughout  
their cup campaign. He inevitably finds himself the target of abuse from the Manchester  
United fans, having twice shunned the club, first in favour of Blackburn Rovers and then  
Newcastle.

He will no doubt relish the prospect of putting one over on his chief tormentors.

While Gullit tasted FA Cup success with Chelsea in 1997, Newcastle have failed to lift  
the trophy since 1955. The players will surely give their all to avoid yet another  
disappointment when close to a major trophy.

Gullit will be eager to derail the Red Devils at stage two of their potentially history-  
making treble, while Ferguson must ensure that his players put next Wednesday's fixture  
to one side as they attempt to add to their impressive recent catalogue of trophies.

The prospect of two of England's best supported clubs going head-to-head in a major  
cup final is an awesome one indeed.

When discussing the FA Cup, the key words are drama and excitement, and no matter  
who emerges victorious come Saturday, it can be assumed that there will be an ample  
supply of both.

# MANCHESTER UTD



# NSW SUPER LEAGUE

## SUPER LEAGUE

**FIRST GRADE:** Leichhardt Tigers 2 (V Savoca 9m, S Karavatakis 89m) bt Central Coast 1 (C Smith 69m), Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3 (R Gomez 17m, J Warburton 21m, R Younis 53m) bt Macarthur Rams 1 (M Bourke 60m), Blacktown City 7 (D Smith 2m, D Brown 9/66m, J Bennett 31/53m, J Angelucci 36m pen, 38m) bt Canterbury Marrickville 0, Bankstown City 3 (D Luksic 45m, N Codmani 50m, M Lozevski 62m) bt Eastern Suburbs 2 (M Beldham 24m, T Canning 84m), Parramatta Eagles 1 (M Reveley 38m) bt Fairfield Bulls 1 (M Hoenselaars 42m), Ryde City 3 (A Peatey 30m, A Cetnay 34m, A Glucina 85m) bt Sutherland Sharks 0, Ryde City vs Bonnyrigg White Eagles, Leichhardt Tigers vs Bankstown City.

**U/21:** Leichhardt Tigers 2 bt Central Coast 0, Macarthur Rams 2 bt Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1, Blacktown City 4 bt Canterbury Marrickville 1, Eastern Suburbs 4 bt Bankstown City 3, Fairfield Bulls 2 bt Parramatta Eagles 1, Sutherland Sharks 2 bt Ryde City 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3 bt Ryde City 1, Leichhardt Tigers 3 bt Bankstown City 0.

**U/18:** Central Coast 1 drew Leichhardt Tigers 1, Macarthur Rams 3 bt Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, Blacktown City 1 bt Canterbury Marrickville 0, Bankstown City 4 bt Eastern Suburbs 4, Parramatta Eagles 3 bt Fairfield Bulls 0, Sutherland Sharks 2 bt Ryde City 1, Ryde City 0 drew Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, Leichhardt Tigers 3 bt Bankstown City 2.

## DIVISION ONE

**FIRST GRADE:** Bathurst '75 0 drew Hurstville City 0, Manly Warringah 4 (D Rosenthal 6/49m, D Barbalace 46/83m) bt Auburn United 0, Rockdale City Suns 3 (S Najdoski 35m, G Typoski 3/75m) bt Illawarra Lions 0, St George 2 (S Janic 20/35m) bt Penrith Panthers 0, Stanmore Hawks 2 (M Adams 41m, T Katsaros 50m) bt AC United 1, Moorebank Sports 1 (G Gunning 60m) drew Dulwich Hill 1 (D Pascuzzo 86m).

**U/21:** Bathurst '75 1 drew Hurstville City 1, Manly Warringah 2 bt Auburn United 0, Illawarra Lions 2 bt Rockdale City Suns 1, St George 1 drew Penrith Panthers 1, Stanmore Hawks 2 bt AC United 0, Moorebank Sports 1 bt Dulwich Hill 0. **U/18:** Bathurst '75 4 bt Hurstville City 1, Auburn United 2 bt Manly Warringah 1, Rockdale City Suns 5 bt Illawarra Lions 1, Penrith Panthers 4 bt St George 1, Stanmore Hawks 1 drew AC United 1, Moorebank Sports 9 bt Dulwich Hill 1.

## DIVISION TWO

**FIRST GRADE:** Hurstville ZSC 3 bt University of NSW 0, Greystanes 4 bt Arncliffe Scots 0, Hajduk Wanderers 3 bt Mt Pritchard 1, Belmore Hercules 2 bt Hills United 1, Fraser Park 2 bt Sydney University 0, Mt Druitt Town 4 bt Sydney District 0.

**U/21:** University of NSW 2 drew Hurstville City 2, Greystanes 3 bt Arncliffe Scots 0, Hajduk Wanderers 2 bt Mt Pritchard 1, Hills United 6 bt Belmore Hercules 0, Sydney University 5 bt Fraser Park 2, Mt Druitt Town 8 vs Sydney District 0.

**U/18:** University of NSW 1 drew Hurstville ZSC 1, Arncliffe Scots 1 drew Greystanes 1, Mt Pritchard 2 bt Hajduk Wanderers 0, Belmore Hercules 1 drew Hills United 1, Sydney University 2 bt Fraser Park 0, Mt Druitt Town 4 bt Sydney District 0.

## DIVISION THREE

**FIRST GRADE:** Prospect United 5 bt Maroubra United 0, Western Sydney Lions 6 bt Camden Tigers 2, Hakoah 5 bt Parramatta City 2, Colo Colo 3 bt Trasandinos 0, White City 4 bt The Wanderers 2, Liverpool City 2 bt Gladesville United 1, Liverpool City 2 bt Maroubra United 1.

**SECOND GRADE:** Prospect United 2 bt Maroubra United 1, Western Sydney Lions 2 drew Camden Tigers 2, Hakoah 5 bt Parramatta City 0, Trasandinos 2 bt Colo Colo 0, White City 4 drew The Wanderers 4, Gladesville United 5 bt Liverpool City 1.

## DIVISION FOUR

**FIRST GRADE:** Nepean District 2 bt Granville Greenisland 0, Prainewood United 6 bt Sydney Crescent Star 2, Eastern Creek Pioneers 1 drew Balmain 1, Marrickville 3 bt CSI Schofields 2, Hawkesbury City 3 bt White Valley 2, Holy Cross Ryde 4 bt Springwood 2, Auburn Star 0 drew United Eagles 0, Eastern Creek Pioneers 3 vs Auburn Star 1.

**SECOND GRADE:** Nepean District 2 bt Granville Greenisland 0, Prainewood United 7 bt Sydney Crescent Star 3, Balmain 3 bt Eastern Creek Pioneers 2, Marrickville 5 bt CSI Schofields 1, Hawkesbury City 5 bt White Valley 0, Springwood 0 drew Holy Cross Ryde 0, United Eagles 4 bt Auburn Star 2.

## DIVISION FIVE

**FIRST GRADE:** UTS vs Sydney United Kings, Lithgow Workmen 4 bt Bossy 2, Sporting SCC 2 drew Sydney TUSC 2, Kellyville Kolts 2 bt Homenetmen 1, Macquarie Sports 2 bt AVA United 1, Liverpool Olympic 2 drew Kosciuszko 2.

**SECOND GRADE:** UTS vs Sydney United Kings, Lithgow Workmen 2 bt Bossy 1, Sporting SCC 5 bt Sydney TUSC 3, Kellyville Kolts 7 bt Homenetmen 0, AVA United 3 bt Macquarie Sports 0, Liverpool Olympic 1 bt Kosciuszko 0.

## COMBINED YOUTH LEAGUE SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

### ROUND 16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Blacktown City Demons	52	38	5	9	138	44	94	119
Southern Districts	52	30	9	13	109	69	40	99
Wollongong Wolves	48	29	8	11	98	56	42	95
Sydney Olympic	48	28	5	15	137	66	71	89
Marconi Fairfield	48	27	7	14	106	64	42	88
Gladesville Hornsby Assoc	49	26	9	14	105	56	49	87
Newcastle Breakers	44	28	2	14	97	55	42	86
Leichhardt Tigers	48	24	5	19	88	64	24	77
Sutherland Sharks	52	20	14	18	90	79	11	74
Parramatta Eagles	44	19	8	17	82	59	23	65
Sydney United	48	18	10	20	71	79	-8	64
Macarthur Rams	52	12	12	28	48	80	-32	48
Manly Warringah Dolphins	48	11	4	33	49	116	-67	37
Southern Branch	52	10	4	38	44	144	-100	34
Central Coast	45	8	4	33	32	132	-100	28
Eastern Suburbs	48	5	6	37	40	171	-131	21

## DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE

### ROUND 11

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
AC United	41	28	7	6	105	43	62	91
Ryde City	40	24	6	10	78	40	38	78
Bankstown Association	40	23	5	12	83	46	37	74
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	44	20	11	13	78	62	16	71
Illawarra Lions	40	21	7	12	100	56	44	70
Penrith Panthers	40	20	8	12	83	45	38	68
Blacktown Association	41	18	10	13	73	50	23	64
Hills United	40	18	6	16	72	55	17	60
St George	40	19	2	19	75	61	14	59
Stanmore Hawks	44	17	5	22	68	73	-5	56
Rockdale City Suns	42	15	5	22	46	77	-31	50
Canterbury Association	41	7	6	28	41	81	-40	27
Fairfield Bulls	34	6	4	24	29	116	-87	22
Canterbury Marrickville	39	5	2	32	28	154	-125	17

## DIVISION TWO YOUTH LEAGUE

### ROUND 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Hajduk Wanderers	32	20	5	7	86	42	44	65
Mt Pritchard	32	19	8	5	76	43	33	65
Nepean Association	32	20	4	8	90	36	54	64
Macquarie Sports	32	19	3	10	68	45	23	60
Ku-Ring-Gai Association	32	17	4	11	73	37	36	55
Mt Druitt Town	32	13	7	12	62	48	14	46
Camden Tigers	32	11	7	14	48	42	6	40
Parramatta City	32	11	5	16	62	78	-16	38
Granville Association	32	9	6	17	49	71	-22	33
CSI Schofields	32	9	6	17	50	86	-36	33
Hawkesbury City	32	8	8	18	32	66	-34	26
Moorebank Sports	32	5	3	24	28	130	-102	18

## SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

### ROUND 13

	G/13	G/14	G/15	G/16
Leichhardt Tigers v Marconi	2-2	2-0	1-2	1-0
Gladesville H v Sutherland S	1-0	2-3	1-1	2-3
Parramatta Eagles v Manly War	1-0	2-0	2-2	5-0
Sydney Utd v Blacktown City	0-3	0-1	1-4	0-0
Macarthur Rams v Sydney Oly	1-0	0-2	3-0	0-1
Southern Dist v Stn Branch	0-2	3-0	4-0	0-1
Newcastle Breakers v Central Coast	5-1	5-0	1-1	0-1
W'gong Wolves v Eastern Subs	5-2	5-0	4-0	5-1
**Southern Dist v Gl'ville Hornsby	1-1	1-1	0-2	2-1
**Blacktown City v Manly Warringah	8-0	3-2	2-0	2-1

\*\* Rescheduled from Round 6

### GRADE 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Blacktown City Demons	13	12	1	0	59	4	55	37
Wollongong Wolves	12	8	3	1	30	12	18	27
Newcastle Breakers	11	9	0	2	25	9	16	27
Parramatta Eagles	11	7	2	2	27	10	17	23
Leichhardt Tigers	12	6	3	3	26	19	7	21
Sydney Olympic	12	6	1	5	36	22	14	19
Gladesville Hornsby Assoc	12	5	4	3	14	17	-3	19
Marconi Fairfield	12	5	3	4	22	16	4	18
Sutherland Sharks	13	3	5	5	15	22	-7	14
Southern Branch	13	4	2	7	15	29	-14	14
Macarthur Rams	13	2	6	5	8	15	-7	12
Sydney United	12	1	2	9	9	28	-19	5
Manly Warringah Dolphins	12	1	2	9	9	33	-24	5
Central Coast	11	1	1	9	8	39	-33	4
Eastern Suburbs	12	0	3	9	8	37	-29	3

### GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Southern Districts	13	9	3	1	33	10	23	30
Wollongong Wolves	12	9	0	3	30	18	12	27
Sydney Olympic	12	8	1	3	39	10	29	25
Sydney United	12	7	3	2	26	15	11	24
Sutherland Sharks	13	7	2	4	20	18	4	23
Marconi Fairfield	12	7	1	4	33	20	13	22
Blacktown City Demons	13	7	1	5	18	18	0	22
Newcastle Breakers	11	7	0	4	21	16	5	21
Newcastle Breakers	11	7	0	4	21	16	5	21
Gladesville Hornsby Assoc	12	6	2	4	32	15	17	20
Parramatta Eagles	11	5	1	5	19	20	-1	16

## NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

## SUPER LEAGUE



ROUND

17

Sunday 23rd May

Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Sutherland Sharks

Serbian Centre 3:00pm

Bankstown City Lions v Macarthur Rams

Jensen Park 3:00pm

Fairfield Bulls v Eastern Suburbs

Nineveh Field 3:00pm

Parramatta Eagles v Canterbury Marrickville

Melita Stadium 3:00pm

Ryde City v Central Coast

Wentworth Park 3:00pm

Leichhardt Tigers v Blacktown City Demons

Lambert Park 3:00pm

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## SUPER LEAGUE ROUND-UP

Round 16 of Super League kicked off on Saturday night with two of the league's top sides, Macarthur Rams and Bonnyrigg White Eagles, playing each other at Lynwood Park in front of another large crowd.

Unfortunately for the majority of those fans though, it was the away side who came away victorious, Bonnyrigg sealing a 3-1 victory with goals from Robert Gomez, James Warburton and Ray Younis. Macarthur replied through midfielder Martin Bourke, while Kain Rastall missed a late penalty for the Rams.

Steve Karavatakis has proved an inspired signing for Leichhardt, and he showed his predatory instincts against the Central Coast to give his team a 2-1 away win.

An early goal to the Tigers' Vince Savoca was cancelled out by a 25 yard volley from the Coasties' Clint Smith, but in the last minute up stepped Karavatakis to claim all three points for the Tigers, who are starting to look dangerous.

Blacktown City Demons had a remarkable 7-0 win at home to Canterbury Marrickville, and in doing so notched up the biggest win in the Super League this season.

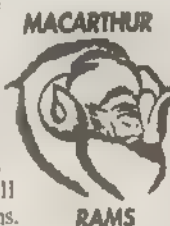
A goal by Damien Smith after two minutes was followed by braces for Damien Brown, Jason Bennett and Jon Angelucci.

Bankstown City Lions defeated bottom club Eastern Suburbs 3-2, with goals from Damien Luksic, Nabil Codmani and Mendo Lozevski, although the Wanderers pushed them all the way, Mark Beldham putting Eastern Suburbs ahead and Tony Canning scoring the last goal of the game.

It was tight at Melita Stadium where Mark Reveley prodded the ball home after 38 minutes for the home side Parramatta Eagles, but the Fairfield Bulls took just four minutes to reply through Mark Hoenselaars. A tight game continued in the second half where both teams were unable to snatch a winner.

Two of the bottom four battled it out at Wentworth Park, and it was Ryde City who came away with the three points after beating Sutherland Sharks 3-0. Goals from Adam Peatey, Aydin Cetinay and Andre Glucina sealed a rare victory for the Gunners.

And don't forget Macarthur Rams sensation, Dion Valle's interview with Eva Loukas, in this issue of Soccer Weekly.



RAMS





# QUEENSLAND

## ROVERS LOSE TOP SPOT



**B**eing born in Germany, it was obvious that Horst Rocker would have a passion for the round ball game and in time, provide a little influence on his son Scott's sporting direction.

Scott was born in Cooroy on Queensland's Sunshine Coast in January 1977, he began playing top level football at the age of four when he took the field for the Cooloola United Under 6's. Well, at that age Scott thought it was top level!

Now whether it was his dad's influence and encouragement or not, the young Rocker excelled at the game and it wasn't long before he was noticed and moved on to other clubs in the district.

With stints at the Nambour club and Woombye as well, Rocker made the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay representative sides each year from Under 11's to U 16.

In 1994 while attending Noosa District High school, he secured a spot in the Queensland Schoolboys side.

But it was in 1995 when things changed a little, Horst decided to take his son to Frankfurt, Germany for a five week holiday. On the day of their arrival, Scott was on the park with Mainz 05 who play in the second Bundesliga.

This led to a contract with third division side Alzey Red White where he played for 12 months.

Next was a six month stint with Mainz Hechsteim, then Guntersblum SV used his services for four months and the original five week holiday turned into a two year soccer feast for the young Rocker.

"It was truly unbelievable," Rocker said.

"It is a totally different lifestyle and the people over in Germany live for soccer."

After coming home to Australia, Rocker then joined Noosa SC and had notched up 24 goals in seven games when he was made an offer to join

the Bundaberg Waves.

However, job commitments swayed his decision to remain with Noosa and he finished the season with some 40 goals. Noosa secured the coveted 1998 double by becoming the Premiers and Champions.

This year has seen another move for the gifted goalscorer, joining Brisbane club Wynnum Wolves under coach Peter Tokesi. Rocker considers this another positive step on his way to achieving his ambition of playing national league football.

"I like being at the Wynnum club," he said.

"I am enjoying my football and the competition is probably just under what I experienced in Germany.

"The club is full of very friendly people who are always willing to help."

Former Brisbane Strikers assistant coach and current Wynnum coach Peter Tokesi, is full of praise for this season's new signing.

"Scott has a lot of potential and has been working hard since he came to the club," Tokesi said.

"He is improving with each game and he is definitely national league material of the near future."

The coach player relationship is obviously very good as, Rocker spoke highly of Tokesi.

"Peter would be up there as one of the best coaches I have had," said Rocker.

"He is an inspiring coach and an excellent motivator. He's getting me focused and helping to lift my game to a higher level."

Rocker is proving an asset to the club contributing seven goals so far and this puts him level pegging on the leagues leading goalscorers ladder with Rochdale Rovers goalscoring machine, Kieran Cooper.

When asked how his club will go this season Rocker was highly optimistic.

"I am sure that Wynnum can make the top four. As Peter (Tokesi) says, we just need some back to back wins," Rocker said.

What does the future hold for Rocker? Well, that's anyone's guess but with his skill and ambition, the future is looking bright for the player who started in the Cooroy Under 6's.

"I really want to play national league and I would like to play for the Brisbane Strikers but I would consider going south if someone should ask me."

**A** revitalised Gold Coast moved within striking distance of the Queensland Premier League top four by knocking leaders Rochdale Rovers from their perch in a 4-nil hiding at Underwood Park on Saturday night.

The win reversed the Gold Coast's heavy first round 7-nil loss to Rochdale at home and put them within three points of equal fourth placed sides Taringa Rovers and Brisbane City who both recorded week-end wins.

Taringa had to fight all the way for a lack lustre 1-nil home win over Bundaberg Waves while Brisbane City were comfortable 3-nil winners over cellar-dwellers Toowoomba.

In others matches Brisbane Lions took full advantage of Rochdale's defeat to slip back to the top of the table following a hard fought 2-1 win over Wynnum while Ipswich Knights remained third following an easy 3-nil win over Mt. Gravatt.

The Gold Coast's form has never looked better since a new owner

stepped in to save the cash-strapped club last month.

The signing of former State striker Peter Dwyer appears to have made the difference as the Gold Coast's off field financial worries no longer threatens the club.

Dwyer, hailed as the club's saviour in local Gold Coast media, has given the club extra firepower up front and scored two goals in his first appearance.

Dwyer again was amongst Gold Coast's scorers against Rochdale along with Michael Richardson, Troy Greenwood and the talented Peter Gnerson.

At Carmichael Park, Brisbane Lions' went back to the top of the table after midfielders Vedran Becirbegovic and Cameron Watson banged in goals to hold Wynnum at bay whose solitary goal came from Paul De Vries.

The Ipswich Knights stayed within four points of the lead after two first half goals put them on the road to victory against Mt Gravatt at Dittmer Park.

The Knights' goals came from midfielder Peter McKendick, Damien Conquest and striker John Clark.

Brisbane City midfielders Damien Waugh and Wayne Strange and defender Damon Voss completed an away treble to keep their side in equal fourth against Toowoomba at Gold Park.

At Jack Speare Park, neither Taringa nor Bundaberg dominated a scrappy match although the home side deserved their 1-nil victory courtesy of a 58th minute penalty.

Striker Des Hughes scored from the spot with his second attempt after he was felled in the box by defender Lucas Read.

Bundaberg, who are sitting in 7th place and losing touch with the top four, failed to have a shot on goal in the first half while Taringa had three chances to score in a dull affair.

Taringa came out firing after the break with midfielder Ben Wood hitting the upright in the 50th minute.

Two minutes later midfielder Richard Hilli attempted to chip keeper Michael Bambridge from the edge of the box before a volley from Craig Slaughter four minutes later sailed over the crossbar.

The Taringa barrage was eventually rewarded when the homeside was awarded a penalty after Read's indiscretion.

Taringa went close to extending their lead midway through the second half after Hughes headed a cross from Slaughter just wide of the upright from close range.

Bundaberg, who defended grimly in the second half, almost snatched the equaliser in the 75th minute when striker Nick Maas turned the Taringa defence on the edge of the box and struck a low shot towards the inside of the upright.

However, Taringa keeper Clint Del Santo, who was only kept busy from corners, dived brilliantly to his left to deflect the ball wide of the upright.

BRISBANE CITY	-	Spencer Park, Newmarket
BRISBANE LIONS	-	Lions Stadium, Richlands
BUNDABERG WAVES	-	Thabeban Sports Complex, Bundaberg
GOLD COAST CITY	-	Southport SC, Ashmore
IPSWICH KNIGHTS	-	Eric Evans Reserve, Bundamba
MT GRAVATT	-	Dittmer Park, Mt Gravatt
ROCHEDALE ROVERS	-	Underwood Park, Rochdale
TARINGA ROVERS	-	Jack Speare Park, Indooroopilly
TOOWOOMBA RAIDERS	-	Gold Park, Toowoomba
WYNNUM	-	Carmichael Park, Tingalpa

### ROUND 14

23-05	Toowoomba Utd	v	Taringa Rovers	2.45pm
23-05	Brisbane City	v	Mt Gravatt	2.45pm
23-05	Brisbane Lions	v	B'berg Waves	2.45pm
23-05	Gold Coast	v	Wynnum	2.45pm
23-05	Ipswich Knights	v	Rochdale Rov	2.45pm

## QUEENSLAND TABLES

### XXXX LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Brisbane Lions	13	8	2	3	33	21	12	26
Brisbane Rov	13	8	0	5	31	22	9	24
IPSW Knights	13	7	2	4	21	16	5	23
Taringa Rovers	13	6	3	4	21	13	8	21
Brisbane City	13	6	3	4	22	17	5	21
Gold Coast	13	4	7	2	24	20	4	19
B'berg Waves	13	4	3	6	19	21	-2	15
Wynnum	13	4	2	7	20	27	-7	14
Mt Gravatt	13	3	3	7	20	32	-12	12
Toowoomba Utd	13	1	3	9	9	31	-22	6

### ROUND 13 SCORES

Toowoomba Utd	0	Brisbane City	3
Mt Gravatt	0	IPSW Knights	2
Rochdale Rov	0	Gold Coast	4
Wynnum	1	Brisbane Lions	2
Taringa Rovers	1	B'berg Waves	0

### DIVISION ONE NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
North Star	11	8	1	2	33	125	18	25
Pine Rivers Utd	12	7	2	3	23	12	11	23
Eastern Subs	11	6	4	1	18	11	7	22
Albany Creek	11	5	3	3	22	20	2	18
Newmarket	11	5	2	4	19	15	4	17
Uni of Qld	12	5	1	6	20	24	-4	16
The Gap	12	3	1	8	22	35	-13	10
Grange Thistle	12	2	3	7	14	27	-13	9
Mitchelton	12	1	3	8	12	24	-12	6

### ROUND 13 SCORES

Grange Thistle	2	Mitchelton	1
Pine Rivers Utd	4	Uni of Qld	1
Eastern Subs	4	The Gap	3
Newmarket	1	North Star	1
Albany Creek - Bye			

### DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Rocklea Utd	12	10	1	1	45	15	30	31
Capalaba	12	8	0	4	24	14	10	24
Souths Utd	11	5	3	3	24	14	10	18
Slacks Creek	12	5	3	4	27	29	-2	18
Inala City	12	5	1	6	21	31	-10	16
Olympic Utd	11	5	0	6	22	23	-1	15
Beenleigh	11	3	2	6	20	27	-7	11
Redlands Utd	11	2	3	6	13	29	-16	9
Acacia Ridge	12	1	3	8	15	29	-14	6

### ROUND 13 SCORES

Slacks Creek	3	Acacia Ridge	2
Inala City	2	Rocklea Utd	1
Olympic Utd	2	Capalaba	1
Beenleigh	3	Souths Utd	4
Redlands Utd - Bye			



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## PREMIER LEAGUE

SPRINGVALE EATEN  
BY THE SHARKS

## PORT MELBOURNE 1

## SPRINGVALE W.E. 0

By Chris Elysee

Port Melbourne, although not playing to their full potential, defeated an undermanned and gallant Springvale White Eagles outfit 1-0 in front of a mediocre crowd on a chilly Sunday afternoon.

Although the Sharks played without regular 'keeper Jamie Cooper, midfielder John Pappas and defender Jean-Paul Knezevic, they did enough to guarantee that they stay at the top of the Premier League ladder.

From the outset, it could be seen this game was going to be a scrappy affair, with the Sharks creating a couple of half-chances inside the first ten minutes. However, the first real chance came to Springvale, with an enterprising run by Eric Styczen beating a couple of Port defenders down the left hand side.

Although his cross was over-hit, the resultant rebound fell to Sam Poutakidis, whose fierce shot was saved by Tony Lyras in the Sharks goal.

The first half proved to be fairly uneventful after this, with the only other real chance falling to the Sharks George Tzirtis, after Nick Tsaltas' probing cross could only be parried away by debutante White Eagles 'keeper Nick Kulamaris. Tzirtis' accurate follow up was then cleared off the line by William Armour.

The deadlock was broken in the 66th minute after Stefan Oter was deemed to have fouled Peter Kakos in the box, with the spot-kick duly awarded by referee Dominic Barba. Kakos stepped up to convert the penalty to put the Sharks in front.

Four minutes later any hope of a White Eagles fight back was lost when Armour was sent off after a second bookable offence.

Armour's send off seemed to spur the Sharks on, creating numerous chances after this. A Bill Tsiakos volley rattled the crossbar, with Kalamaris beaten in Springvale's goal.

Springvale's only shining light was Jim Gacovski, who twice went close to beating Lyras in the Port goal.

Recently appointed White Eagles coach Bobby McLachlan lamented the quality of his side, as he saw their fight to stay in the Premier League intensify. With a few key players out, including Australian Under-17 representative, Rade Culibrk, coach McLachlan emphasised the need for new players.

"It's amazing to think that a 16 year old can make such a difference to a side" said McLachlan.

**Sharks:** Lyras, Fak, Tzirtis, Tsaltas, Palamaras, Vargas, Heath (Efsthathiou), Latinopoulos, Kakos, Sonisini, Tsiakos.

**White Eagles:** Kalamaris, Calomino, Oter, Armour (sent off), Styczen, Poutakidis, Gacovski, Rikanovic, Mandic, Z.Mihajlovic, Nikolic

**Referee:** Dominic Barba

**Votes:** 3- Fak (PM), 2- Latinopoulos (PM), 1- Tzirtis (PM).

## PRESTON 1

## SUNSHINE 1

By Ivan Perkovic

Many chances, few goals. It was this scenario that plagued the 1-1 draw between Preston Lions and Sunshine Georgies.

In a game where Preston had 22 corners as opposed to Sunshine's 1, the Lions couldn't make them count as Georgies keeper, Steve Wardle thwarted every attempt.

From the outset Preston piled on the pressure, their midfield was dominant and their defence looked sound. Sunshine were constantly on the back-foot and if it wasn't for the reliable partnership of Wardle, Robert Krajacic, Fabian Allain and Joe Debono, the score line might well have resembled a cricket score.

Preston's attacking was to no avail, as their strikers were either slipping or missing the ball all together.

In the 47th minute, good dribbling by Steve Stojanovski allowed Anthony Magnacca to gain possession, who from the centre of the ground sent a

low cross to an on-running Alfonso Opazo who beat Lupce Acevski with the outside of his foot.

The goal stunned the Preston players and supporters and it was then they realised they could lose against the bottom side.

The Lions kept attacking and pushing the Georgies further and further back, until they reached the goal-line, and from there Wardle denied Preston everything.

A mixture of great goalkeeping and poor finishing allowed Preston to stay in front.

Josip Kozic and Ivan Filipovski were the driving force for the Lions creating chances for Kamer Sumsek.

But the goal finally arrived in the 88th minute when a 25 metre low shot by Deny Lisolaski came to Tommy Ujgunovski, who side-footed the ball in, sending the Preston fans wild.

After the game, most people talked of the absence of Warren Spink, a persistent ankle injury meant he sat it out, watching as his team-mates missed opportunities he eats for breakfast.

**Lions:** Acevski, Slavski, Kovacic (Sterovski), Lisolaski, Filipovski, Ogenovski, Kozic (Talevski) Sumsek, Emsovski, Stojcevski (Burlak), Ujgunovski.

**Georgies:** Wardle, Krajacic, Rozanitis (Bot), Allain, Debono, Marinkovic, Stojanovski (sent off), Recchia, Opazo (De La Plaza), Magnacca, Hermosilla.

**Referee:** Alan Contini

**Votes:** 3- Wardle (SG), 2- Kozic (PL), 1- Filipovski (PL).

## ALTONA EAST 0

## ALTONA MAGIC 1

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Altona East lost its second successive game on Sunday, going down 1-0 to close rivals Altona Magic in a tight match.

A 73rd minute goal from Magic substitute Danny Madarovski won the three points for Magic leaving their neighbours empty-handed and perched just above the relegation zone.

Magic had created the better chances of the game, 12 minutes in Tom Markovski's header was cleared off the line by Giovanni De Amicis.

Zoran Todorovski then flashed a left foot shot across goal before John Sapazovski missed the chance of the half just before the break when his shot beat Phoenix 'keeper Sam Frangos but went narrowly past the post.

De Amicis had to clear again in the 64th minute after Frangos had partially saved a Todorovski effort.

Madarovski, on for the injured Henry Velkovski just before half time, shone for Magic in the second half.

He was on the end of a move that carved the Phoenix defence open. A ball down the line from Marjan Tasevski found Sapazovski and his pin-point cross sat up perfectly for Madarovski to steer the ball past Frangos.

In the 78th minute, John Dimitrelos tested Darren McGrath from distance and the Magic 'keeper did well to tip the shot over the bar.

Substitute Len Catalano's powerful shot fizzed past McGrath's right post in the 87th minute but it was the visitors who had the best opportunity to score what would have been the final goal.

Two minutes into stoppage time, Steven Markovski's cross into the centre found an unmarked Pece Cergovski but, with acres of space, he clipped the ball over the bar when it probably would have been easier to score.

**Phoenix:** Frangos, R.Antoniadis, Kapulica, De Amicis, Schwal (F.Catalano), Donnelly, Dimitrelos, Groidis (L.Catalano), Bartol (Petrovski), Papadopoulos, Angelos.

**Magic:** McGrath, Bogdanovski, Tasevski, Risteovski, Trifunov, T.Markovski, Vasilevski, Sapazovski (Cergovski), Bozinovski, Todorovski (S.Markovski), Velkovski (Madarovski).

**Referee:** Perry Mur

**Votes:** 3- Trifunov (AM), 2- Madarovski (AM), 1- Papadopoulos (AE).

## FAWKNER GIVE RAIDERS THE BLUES

BENTLEIGH 0  
ST ALBANS 1

By Patrick Tomson

A single goal was enough to secure all three points for St Albans in a fairly even contest against Bentleigh Greens at Kingston Heath Reserve on Sunday.

Harry Karl's 72nd minute strike capped off some brilliant lead up play by Ivan Razov to push the Saints out of the bottom four relegation zone.

Ideal playing conditions allowed for free flowing soccer, however both defences stood firm throughout the first half with very little scoring opportunities created.

The best chance of the half fell at the feet of Bentleigh's Harry Michel who received a superb lofted pass from Juan Nilo. Michel did well to control the ball with his chest however his final lunged chip sailed over the advancing Saints 'keeper Marjan Vunderl, as well as the bar.

Vunderl performed more heroics to deny David Grella in the second half and soon after, it was another save that foiled an attacker's exploits, this time at the other end. Saints wing-back, Slavko Rados drove in a firm cross that veered wickedly towards goal but Bentleigh's custodian, Glenn Clarke, managed to steer away the effort with a brilliant fingertip save and keep his team in the hunt.

Possibly inspired by their 'keeper's efforts, Bentleigh began to take hold of the game with greater possession and several shots on goal. A well worked free kick outside the box for the Greens almost paid dividends in the 60th minute. Again, had it not been for Vunderl, Bentleigh were certain to have scored.

Bentleigh's inability to find the back of the net was to prove costly in the 72nd minute. Against the run of play, Saints striker Ivan Razov made a darting run down the left flank and cut the ball back to the oncoming Karl, who made no mistake from close range.

Several more forays up front were to prove ineffectual for Bentleigh even though the Saints finished the game with 10 men after the late send off of Krunoslav Razov for dissent.

**Greens:** Clarke, Kotsovolos (Lenetis), Michel, McDonagh, Constantinou, Drakos, Kourkoutzelos, Nilo, Rossios (Papettas), Grella, Mladenovic (Pino).

**Saints:** Vunderl, I Rados (Mikulic), Raspudic, Colina, Karl, Saric (Klanca), K.Razov (sent off), S.Rados, Vojtek, I.Razov, Movne (Dragicevic).

**Referee:** Robert Ince

**Votes:** 3- McDonagh (BG), 2- Grella (BG), 1- Vunderl (StA)

## FAWKNER 3

## MELBOURNE RAIDERS 1

By George Koukeris

An impressive Fawkner notched their seventh consecutive win, grinding Melbourne Raiders to a 3-1 thrashing.

The Blues moved straight into second gear from the kick off, catching the Raiders off guard in the 1st minute when Martin Collins intercepted a loose ball in the penalty area and effectively shot past Mauro Raponi.

The early sting soured the spirits of the Raiders who assembled a line-up consisting of every known illness. Anthony Boschini, Les Anastasiou and David Iacovitti all wished they were snuggled up in a warm blanket. The Raiders also missed regulars George Shifkas, Tony Lingurovski and John Angelovski.

In the 16th minute, the Blues scored a second from Peter Psarros who surprised himself when his shot found the target.

In the second half the aggression from the Blues intensified. It was clearly evident that Fawkner was after a huge win.

In the 75th minute, Fawkner struck a third time to destruct any resurrection from the Raiders and seal the three points when Santo Emmanuele finished off a brilliant solo run, passing the last man in Boschini and firing too hard and fast for Raponi to assemble enough time for a chance to save.

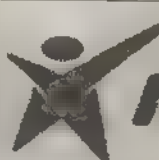
Two minutes later, the Raiders' John Gasparini crashed through the defence to notch up their only goal for the day, shooting from the left corner of the penalty area.

Gasparini came within inches of claiming a second in the 85th minute when a George Jolevski centred to find Mohamed Elkersh in position to fire away but a deflection turned the ball on to Gasparini who hesitated for a split second planting the ball into the safe arms of Maurice Gonzalez.

**Blues:** Gonzalez, Tramontana, Grimaud (Alexopoulos), P.Ferrante, Schipano, V Ferrante (Panbianco), Bordignon, Collins, Emmanuele, Duzel (Chillico), Psarros.

**Raiders:** Raponi, Boschini, Anastasiou (Karamitanis), Buchler, Gasparini, Kitanovski, Jolevski, Iacovitti, Cuculeski (Elkersh), Salovski (Culeri), Cofallo.

**Votes:** 3-Emmanuele (FB), 2- Duzel (FB), 1- Raponi (MR)

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## ROUND 14 DETAILS

Melbourne Raiders 1 (Boschini) - Green Gully Cavaliers 1 (Atanasovski)

Westvale 3 (Goutzioulis 2, Markovski) - Port Melbourne Sharks 3 (Palamaras, Tsaltas, Kakos)

## ROUND 15 DETAILS

Port Melbourne Sharks 1 (Kakos) - Springvale White Eagles 0

Preston Lions 1 (Ujgunovski) - Sunshine Georgies 1 (Opazo)

Altona East 0 - Altona Magic 1 (Madarovski)

Bentleigh Greens 0 - St Albans Saints 1 (Karl)

Fawkner Blues 3 (Collins, Psarros, Emmanuele) - Melbourne Raiders 1 (Gasparini)

Bulleen v Westvale and Green Gully v South Dandenong played on Monday night

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Melbourne Sharks	15	10	4	1	37	15	34
Preston Lions	15	9	2	4	33	20	29
Green Gully Cavaliers	14	8	4	2	27	15	28
Fawkner Blues	15	8	2	5	26	17	26
Melbourne Raiders	15	6	4	5	21	24	22
Altona Magic	15	6	3	6	21	30	21
Bentleigh Greens	15	5	5	5	27	17	20
Bulleen Inter Kings	14	4	5	5	17	18	17
St Albans Saints	15	5	2	8	16	22	17
South Dandenong	14	4	4	6	23	24	16
Altona East Phoenix	15	4	4	7	15	22	16
Springvale White Eagles	15	3	4	8	19	27	13
Westvale	14	2	6	6	17	30	12
Sunshine Georgies	15	3	3	9	14	32	12

## ROUND 16 FIXTURES

Saturday May 22

South Dandenong v Westvale - kick off 3pm at George Andrews Reserve

Sunday May 23

St Albans Saints v Altona East - kick off 3pm at Churchill Reserve

Altona Magic v Preston Lions - kick off 3pm at Paisley Park

Sunshine Georgies v Port Melbourne Sharks - kick off 3pm at Chaplin Reserve

Springvale White Eagles v Bulleen Inter Kings - kick off 3pm at Serbian Sports Centre

Monday May 24

Green Gully Cavaliers v Fawkner Blues - kick off 8.15pm at Green Gully Reserve

Melbourne Raiders v Bentleigh Greens - kick off 8.15pm at Epping Soccer Stadium





# VICTORIAN LEAGUES



## CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE

### DIVISION 1 - ROUND 8

Westgate 3 - Werribee City 1  
 Doncaster Rovers 1 - Yarraville Glory 1  
 Kingston City 2 - Melbourne City 1  
 Western Suburbs 1 - Richmond 1  
 Springvale City 0 - North Geelong Warriors 0  
 Northcote City 1 - Lalor United 5  
 Heidelberg United v Oakleigh (played Monday night)



Stonnington City 3 - Broadmeadows City 2  
 Laverton Park 2 - Bell Park 0  
 Banyule City 0 - Mooroolbark 2

Springvale Condors 1 - Brunswick City 1  
 Mitcham United 0 - Endeavour United 1  
 Sydenham Park 2 - Morwell Pegasus 2  
 South Caulfield 0 - Riversdale 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lalor United	8	6	1	1	20	7	19
Heidelberg United	7	6	1	0	20	9	19
Westgate	8	5	1	2	15	8	16
Oakleigh	7	5	0	2	10	5	15
Kingston City	8	4	1	3	10	13	13
Nth Geelong Warriors	8	3	3	2	9	7	12
Western Suburbs	8	3	2	3	12	11	11
Northcote City	8	3	1	4	19	17	10
Doncaster Rovers	8	2	3	3	14	11	9
Melbourne City	8	3	0	5	15	21	9
Yarraville Glory	8	2	2	4	10	14	8
Richmond	8	1	3	4	9	18	6
Springvale City	8	1	2	5	3	14	5
Werribee City	8	0	2	6	7	18	2

### ROUND 9 FIXTURES

Saturday May 22  
 Yarraville Glory v Western Suburbs

Sunday May 23  
 Lalor United v Melbourne City  
 North Geelong Warriors v Northcote City  
 Oakleigh v Springvale City  
 Richmond v Heidelberg United  
 Werribee City v Doncaster Rovers  
 Westgate v Kingston City



### DIVISION 2 - ROUND 8

Altona City 1 - Diamond Valley United 0  
 Frankston Strikers 2 - Cranbourne Comets 2  
 Old Scotch Waverley 0 - Essendon 4  
 Geelong 2 - Ringwood City 2  
 Croydon City Arrows 1 - Knox City 1  
 Satellite City Rovers 0 - Thomastown/Regent 4  
 East Richmond 3 - Frankston Pines 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essendon	8	6	2	0	21	1	20
Knox City	8	5	1	2	17	7	16
Frankston Pines	8	4	3	1	24	9	15
East Richmond	8	4	2	2	12	11	14
Cranbourne Comets	8	3	4	1	16	11	13
Altona City	8	4	1	3	8	11	13
Thomastown/Regent	8	3	3	2	13	9	12
Geelong	8	3	3	2	14	17	12
Old Scotch Waverley	8	4	0	4	11	15	12
Ringwood City	8	2	2	4	13	21	8
Croydon City Arrows	8	1	3	4	8	13	6
Satellite City Rovers	8	1	2	5	5	20	5
Frankston Strikers	8	0	4	4	7	15	4
Diamond V. United	8	0	2	6	10	19	2

### ROUND 9 FIXTURES

Saturday May 22  
 Frankston Pines v Essendon  
 Thomastown/Regent v East Richmond  
 Knox City v Satellite City Rovers  
 Ringwood City v Croydon City Arrows  
 Cranbourne Comets v Geelong  
 Diamond Valley United v Frankston Strikers  
 Altona City v Old Scotch Waverley

### DIVISION 3 - ROUND 8

Williamstown 0 - South Wantirna 3  
 South Springvale 0 - Keilor Park 1  
 Pascoe Vale 0 - North Coburg United 4  
 Moreland City 0 - Fitzroy City 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stonnington City	8	6	1	1	21	9	19
South Wantirna	8	5	2	1	16	6	17
Moreland City	8	5	1	2	18	10	16
Fitzroy City	8	4	3	1	19	12	15
Williamstown	8	4	2	2	19	15	14
North Coburg United	8	3	3	2	15	9	12
South Springvale	8	2	5	1	8	6	11
Laverton Park	8	2	3	3	13	14	9
Keilor Park	8	3	0	5	10	15	9
Mooroolbark	8	2	3	3	8	16	9
Pascoe Vale	8	2	2	4	10	18	8
Bell Park	8	1	3	4	7	15	6
Broadmeadows City	8	1	2	5	9	18	5
Banyule City	8	0	2	6	8	18	2

### ROUND 9 FIXTURES

Saturday May 22  
 Mooroolbark v North Coburg United  
 Bell Park v Banyule City  
 Broadmeadows City v Laverton Park  
 Fitzroy City v Stonnington City  
 Keilor Park v Moreland City  
 South Wantirna v South Springvale -  
 Williamstown v Pascoe Vale

### DIVISION 4 - ROUND 8

Sandringham City 5 - Nunawading City 1  
 Seaford United 1 - Melton 0  
 Lalor 4 - Chelsea 0  
 Lyndale United 1 - Corio 1  
 Clifton Hill United 1 - Keysborough 6  
 Sunbury United 7 - Geelong Rangers 1  
 Croxton Park 1 - Langwarrin 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Langwarrin	8	8	0	0	29	8	24
Sandringham City	8	5	1	2	29	15	16
Lyndale United	8	4	3	1	17	13	15
Lalor	8	4	2	2	17	13	14
Croxton Park	8	3	4	1	19	13	13
Seaford United	8	4	1	3	13	16	13
Sunbury United	8	4	0	4	18	15	12
Melton	8	3	2	3	13	13	11
Keysborough	8	3	1	4	20	13	10
Corio	8	2	2	4	10	20	8
Nunawading City	8	2	1	5	9	19	7
Clifton Hill United	8	1	2	5	14	24	5
Geelong Rangers	8	1	2	5	10	22	5
Chelsea	8	1	1	6	10	24	4

### ROUND 9 FIXTURES

Saturday May 22  
 Langwarrin v Chelsea  
 Geelong Rangers v Croxton Park  
 Keysborough v Sunbury United  
 Corio v Clifton Hill United  
 Melton v Lyndale United  
 Nunawading City v Seaford United  
 Sandringham City v Lalor



## PROVISIONAL LEAGUE

### DIVISION 1 - ROUND 6

North Sunshine Eagles 3 - Templestowe Eagles 5  
 Monbulk 2 - Dandenong 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Endeavour United	6	6	0	0	19	3	18
Brunswick City	6	4	2	0	9	5	14
Morwell Pegasus	6	4	1	1	16	6	13
Riversdale	6	4	1	1	14	6	13
Sydenham Park	6	3	2	1	17	13	11
Nth Sunshine Eagles	6	2	1	3	13	19	7
Mitcham United	6	2	0	4	10	13	6
Monbulk	6	1	1	4	7	11	4
Dandenong	6	1	1	4	8	13	4
South Caulfield	6	1	1	4	12	18	4
Templestowe Eagles	6	1	0	5	11	16	3
Springvale Condors	6	1	2	3	4	17	2

### Round 7 fixtures

Saturday May 22  
 Morwell Pegasus v South Caulfield  
 Endeavour United v Sydenham Park  
 Riversdale v North Sunshine Eagles  
 Brunswick City v Mitcham United  
 Dandenong v Springvale Condors  
 Templestowe Eagles v Monbulk



### DIVISION 2 NORTH-WEST - ROUND 6

Broadmeadows United 0 - Glenroy 4  
 Hoppers Crossing 5 - Mill Park 1  
 Melbourne University 2 - Meadow Park 2  
 Somerton City 1 - University of Melbourne 2  
 Ballarat 2 - Keon Park 0  
 Elwood City 2 - South Yarra 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glenroy	6	5	1	0	16	4	16
Hoppers Crossing	6	5	0	1	21	10	15
Ballarat	6	4	2	0	10	4	14
Uni. of Melbourne	6	3	2	1	17	12	11
Elwood City	6	3	1	2	13	13	10
Somerton City	6	2	2	2	14	8	8
Mill Park	6	2	1	3	14	14	7
Melb. University	6	1	2	3	12	17	5
Meadow Park	6	1	2	3	7	15	5
Broadmeadows Utd	6	1	2	3	12	20	2
Keon Park	6	0	2	4	6	17	2
South Yarra	6	0	1	5	5	13	1

### ROUND 7 FIXTURES

Saturday May 22  
 South Yarra v Meadow Park  
 Keon Park v Elwood City  
 University of Melbourne v Ballarat  
 Mill Park v Somerton City  
 Glenroy v Hoppers Crossing  
 Broadmeadows United v Melbourne University

### DIVISION 2 SOUTH-EAST - ROUND 6

Newborough/Yallourn 1 - Brandon Park 1  
 Heatherton United 1 - Clayton 2  
 Braeside United 2 - Dandenong Inter 1  
 Dingley City 3 - Noble Park 1  
 Waverley Wanderers 1 - Doveton 1  
 Monash University 0 - Ashburton 9

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Table							
Waverley Wanderers	6	5	1	0	19	5	16
Clayton	6	5	0	1	13	5	15
Newborough/Yallourn	6	3	2	1	14	9	11

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Doveton	6	3	2	1	8	5	11
Heatherton United	6	3	1	2	12	11	10
Ashburton	6	3	0	3	19	11	9
Dingley City	6	3	1	2	10	11	7
Brandon Park	6	2	1	3	5	8	7
Noble Park	6	2	0	4	9	13	6
Monash University	6	1	1	4	8	21	4
Braeside United	6	1	0	5	5	12	3
Dandenong Inter	6	0	1	5	8	19	1



### ROUND 7 FIXTURES

Saturday May 22  
 Doveton v Monash University  
 Noble Park v Waverley Wanderers  
 Ashburton v Newborough/Yallourn  
 Dandenong Inter v Dingley City  
 Clayton v Braeside United  
 Brandon Park v Heatherton United

### DIVISION 3 NORTH-WEST - ROUND 6

Watsonia Heights 2 - Brimbank 3  
 West Preston 1 - Darebin United 4  
 North Reservoir 0 - Brimbank City 0  
 Whittlesea United 0 - North Glenroy 3  
 Flemington Falcons 2 - Keilor United 4  
 Northern United 1 - La Trobe University 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Glenroy	6	5	0	1	13	5	15
Keilor United	6	4	1	1	18	10	13
Darebin United	6	4	0	2	16	7	12
Whittlesea United	6	4	0	2	11	7	12
Brimbank City	6	2	4	0	10	7	10
North Reservoir	6	2	3	1	5	7	9
Brimbank	6	2	1	3	8	13	7
La Trobe University	6	2	0	4	10	14	6
Flemington Falcons	6	1	2	3	7	9	5
Northern United	6	1	1	4	9	13	4
Watsonia Heights	6	1	1	4	9	16	4
West Preston	6	1	1	4	10	18	4

### ROUND 7 FIXTURES

Sunday May 23  
 La Trobe University v Brimbank City  
 Keilor United v Northern United  
 North Glenroy v Flemington Falcons  
 Darebin United v Whittlesea United  
 Brimbank v West Preston  
 Watsonia Heights v North Reservoir

### DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST - ROUND 6

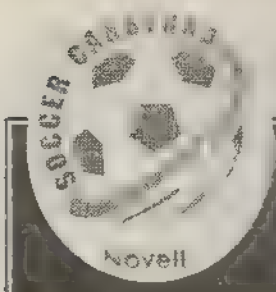
Collingwood City 1 - North Caulfield 2  
 Rowville Eagles 3 - Parkmore 1  
 Moreland United 3 - Endeavour Hills 2  
 Newport United 0 - Old Camberwell Grammar 1  
 Beaumaris 3 - Thornbury United 0  
 Ivanhoe United 2 - Noble Park United 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Moreland United	6	4	2	0	12	6	14
Ivanhoe United	6	4	1	1	11	4	13
Noble Park United	6	4	0	2	12	9	12
Endeavour Hills	6	3	1	2	17	12	10
North Caulfield	5	3	0	2	9	7	9
Collingwood City	6	2	2	2	14	10	8
Thornbury United	5	2	2	1	11	8	8
Beaumaris	6	2	2	2	9	9	8
Rowville Eagles	6	2	1	3	11	11	7
Old C'well Grammar	6	1	3	2	6	9	6
Parkmore	6	0	2	4	9	20	2
Newport United	6	0	0	6	4	20	0

### ROUND 7 FIXTURES

Sunday May 23  
 Noble Park United v Endeavour Hills  
 Thornbury United v Ivanhoe United  
 Old Camberwell Grammar v Beaumaris  
 Parkmore v Newport United  
 North Caulfield v Rowville Eagles  
 Collingwood City v Moreland United





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By Greg Welsh

## FORMER SOCCEROO HELPING MONARO'S CAUSE

**T**ony Brennan, or "TB" as he is known to half of Canberra, is one of the most recognised and well-liked people in the local soccer

During last weekend's Premier League game between Monaro and Canberra Olympic, the former Socceroo squad member and current assistant coach of the Canberra Cosmos was to be found on the bench alongside Monaro caretaker-coach Andrew Monterosso.

Brennan's voice was like a running commentary to the game, as he called out instructions and encouragement to Monaro players. One wag from the grandstand was led to yell out "What are you doing Tony? You're not the coach!" Quick as a flash Brennan yelled back "I'm the coach of the black players!"

Brennan has been an institution in

Canberra soccer since signing with NSL team Canberra City over 20 years ago. He had been lured to the capital from the Brisbane Lions, and laughingly remembers his first impressions of the region.

"I scored the winning goal against Canberra City in front of 8,000 people.

That's the worst thing I ever did. Driving back to the club I remember thinking 'who'd live in this bloody place?' I came down here for one game, and I'm here 20 years later."

When Monaro and former coach Ian Heywood parted ways two weeks ago, rumours were quick to surface that Brennan, who is a committee member at Monaro, was to step into the breach.

But he maintains that is not his goal.

"I haven't got the job, and I don't particularly want the job — but I want to make sure that Monaro carry on. I'm not committing myself to coaching the side because I already

have a young side myself at Belconnen, so I really can't give a hundred per cent."

"I'll really be probably acting as an overseer because of the inexperience of Andrew Monterosso. So I'll be giving him more of a hand and filling in for the other coaches if they're not around. I think Andrew's got a taste for it, and I think he realises I can give him support, so I've tried to talk him into staying on as the coach."

Although he has changed to a more attacking formation, Brennan is the first

to admit that Heywood's previous contribution made his and Monterosso's task much easier.

"We've got the squad there that can virtually look after themselves and play for themselves, so that wasn't a real problem," he says.

Brennan picked up many invaluable coaching lessons from his playing days in the NSL, but says that "more of them have shown me how not to coach, which is even better. [Les] Scheinflug was like Rale [Rasic] — he never said much. [Rudi] Gutendorf, well he was just crazy, you know running up hills in suits and all that sort of thing."

Brennan says he's enjoying his role with the Cosmos, especially now that Tom Sermanni has turned the team's fortunes around.

"Tommy being there is a bit more enjoyable only because we've played and known each other for a long time," he says. "We need the Cosmos here,

and that's my first priority of course."

He still finds time to pull on the boots for the University of Canberra in the Masters competition, and admits that he loves playing as much as ever.

"We're not training two or three days a week — which would be great, but kids and work just doesn't allow that anymore," he says.

Brennan has seen a lot of changes in Canberra soccer over the past twenty years, and has definite opinions on its future direction.

He says that the junior numbers prove that soccer has a future here, but that clubs must get their own grounds free of cricket pitches and rugby commitments. He'd also like to see a Canberra team in the NSW State League and the institution of double-headers in the Premier League to draw more crowds. That's a lot of change, but if anyone can achieve it, Tony Brennan can.



### Olympic take Federation Cup in style

**F**our goals to Njegosh Popovich sealed a 6-2 win for Canberra Olympic as they brushed aside Canberra Deakin in the final of the Federation Cup at the AIS on Sunday.

The crowd of about 150 were treated to a game of spills and thrills, with both sides seemingly intent on attacking at every opportunity.

The game was only four minutes old when Popovich's left foot shot crashed against the underside of the bar. The ball bounced down onto the goal-line then spun back out into the crowded penalty area, where Popovich made sure of his second effort.

Deakin fought back immediately, with Gaby Exposito and Ante Mijoc each forcing saves from Olympic keeper Angelo Konstantinou.

But Olympic weathered the storm before racing further ahead in the 18th minute. Adelaide Sharks' recruit Alex Castro was quick to bring down a bouncing ball, before unleashing a powerful low shot from 25 metres that left Pedro Pavez groping at thin air.

Popovich nearly stretched the margin further in the 37th minute when he neatly dispossessed Deakin sweeper Joseph Skrtic and raced into the box.

But Pavez managed to bat down the Olympic striker's effort, and David Milin appeared from nowhere to mop up.

Seven minutes later, Deakin forced their way back into the match with a quick counter-attack. Left wing-back Anthony Rakic's clever switch of play found substitute Paul Ivanic charging into the box, and the Deakin forward unselfishly cut the ball square to Ben Deighan who found the net from close range.

Olympic seemed intent on making up for their lapse in concentration when they emerged from the half-time break, and they soon restored the two-goal margin.

Geoff Howarth showed his class by nutmegging Skrtic and forcing his way to the left byline. His low, hard cross was bundled into the Deakin goal by Popovich despite Rakic's close attention.

It was fitting that Popovich's third goal of the game was set up by his striking partner and brother, Arsenje, who toiled hard all afternoon for little reward. In the 62nd minute Arsenje foisted the Deakin off-side trap and found himself in acres of space but rather than take the shot he rolled the ball over to Njegosh who gratefully slotted away his hat trick.

At 4-1 Olympic seemed to have the game sewn up but a defensive blunder once more allowed Deakin to claw themselves back into the contest. This Arvinitis

miss-kicked a clearance directly to Ivanic, who struck sweetly to notch up Deakin's second goal of the game.

Ivanic raced the ball back to the half-way line for the re-start, but he needn't have bothered, as Olympic once more re-established their authority.

In the 79th minute, Pino Seminara's through-ball found Deakin's defence in disarray and Njegosh Popovich once more in space down the left-hand flank.

The striker interchanged passes with his brother before shooting from in front of goal. This effort was well blocked by the Deakin keeper, but Popovich collected the rebound, and curled a delicate chip over Pavez and into the corner of the net to bring up his fourth.

The last goal of the game came just three minutes before full-time.

Castro's switch-pass landed at the feet of Robert Grande who ran unmarked into the Deakin box. The Olympic midfielder kept a cool head to nudge the ball past the advancing Deakin keeper into the far corner of the goal.

Deakin coach Ian Shaw, while obviously disappointed with the final result, was proud of his young team for coming so far in the competition.

"Congratulations to Olympic for what they did. They knocked the ball around and kept us running the whole game," Shaw said.

"Even though the result went against us, I think it's a great thing for the team to be in this position so early in some of their careers, and for the club it's great to at least be here."

Olympic's Jim Tsokos, filling in for regular coach Baz Giampaolo who is overseas, was obviously overjoyed with the victory. "Grand finals depend on the day who's playing good. It doesn't matter how good the team is, when you don't put it together to play one hundred per cent, the other team can get on top of you and you can lose the game."

"You've got to take your chances. Today, if we had, say, eight chances we scored six — which was good."

Four-goal hero Njegosh Popovich named his last goal as his best of the match, and shared the praise amongst his team-mates. "In the absence of the coach this week it's been a different preparation, and the team's come together well. I'm very happy."

### Campagna fires for Monaro

**M**onaro midfielder Joe Campagna's two second-half goals proved enough to beat Belconnen United 2-1 in the Federation Cup consolation final at the AIS on Sunday.

Although these two teams finished third and fourth in

the Cup, they are currently placed first and second in the premiership, so the game was always going to be a hard-fought affair with both sides searching for a crucial psychological edge.

Belconnen came out far the stronger side in the first half, and almost took the lead in the 17th minute when centre-midfielder Jaime Mauro threaded a pass to Luke Larfield whose shot was well blocked by the legs of Monaro keeper Tony Guarino.

Nine minutes later Guarino again saved well in a one-on-one situation, after Mauro's quick free-kick released Craig Unwin into the Monaro penalty box.

But three minutes later Belconnen finally reaped the reward for their continued pressure, as Marko Perinovic leaped high to head home Larfield's corner.

But for another Guarino save, Belconnen would have extended their lead in the 41st minute, after Lee Pietrukowski sent Scott Manson bearing in on goal.

As is usually the case, Belconnen were made to pay a high price for their poor finishing in the first half. Monaro emerged rejuvenated from the break, and it wasn't long before they were once more on even terms.

In the 57th minute, Monaro forward Lazar Simeonov passed the ball from the right to half-time substitute Danny Serena, who in turn laid off for Campagna to strike a long-range skimmer into the Belconnen goal.

Both sides exchanged half-chances for the next twenty minutes before Monaro caught the Belconnen defence exposed. Simeonov pounced upon a loose ball and quickly fed Campagna who dribbled into the box before firing a left-foot shot past Belconnen keeper Rade Kosanovic.

Serena showed his team's new-found confidence with a cracking shot just a minute later, but the crossbar denied his excellent effort.

Monaro continued to finish strongly, much to the delight of coach Andrew Monterosso. "It was a great result considering the amount of players we've got out at the moment," he said.

### FEDERATION CUP

#### Final

Canberra Olympic ... 6 Canberra Deakin ... 2

#### 3rd vs 4th

Belconnen United ... 1 Monaro ... 2

### PREMIER LEAGUE

#### Division 2

Sabres FC ... 2 Belwest Foxes ... 6  
Cooma ... 4 Tuggeranong Utd ... 2  
ANU ... 2 White Eagles ... 0

### Reserves

Sabres FC ... 0 Belwest Foxes ... 1  
Cooma ... 0 Tuggeranong Utd ... 6  
ANU ... 2 White Eagles ... 2

### ACT STATE LEAGUE

#### Division 1

Canberra City ... 3 Ginninderra ... 5  
ANU ... 3 Valley Blues ... 2  
Monaro ... 4 Uni of Canberra ... 1

#### Division 2

Canberra City ... 0 Ginninderra ... 0  
ANU ... 10 Valley Blues ... 0  
Belconnen United ... 4 Tuggeranong ... 1  
Burns ... 3 Belwest ... 3

#### Division 3

Weston Creek Royals ... 7 Uni of Canberra ... 1  
Fyshwick ... 0 Harmonie ... 8  
Tuggeranong ... 1 Valley Blues ... 4  
ANU ... 3 Canberra City ... 0

#### Division 4

Fyshwick ... 0 Harmonie ... 1  
Burns ... 2 Valley Blues ... 0  
Weston Creek Royals ... 7 Uni of Canberra ... 2  
Uni of Canberra (2) ... 0 ANU (2) ... 1

### Masters

ANU ... 3 Canberra Deakin ... 7  
White Eagles ... 0 Belwest ... 3 (M)  
Valley Blues ... 0 Belconnen United ... 8  
Kambah OB ... 7 ANU ... 4  
Canberra Deakin ... 1 Uni of Canberra ... 3  
Belwest ... 2 Belconnen United ... 2  
Tuggeranong Utd ... 1 Kambah Rovers ... 3

### Premier League

#### next Sunday

Monaro v Uni of Canberra  
Riverside Stadium

Belconnen United v Canberra Olympic  
Hawker

Gungahlin Juventus v Burns  
Majura

Canberra Deakin v Queanbeyan City  
Deakin

Capital City Sans v Weston Creek Royals  
O'Connor







# ITALY

## AC MILAN POISED FOR SCUDETTO

Everyone, including Soccer Weekly, had AC Milan written off. Yet now they stand poised to win the scudetto after a dramatic weekend of matches in Serie A.

In Saturday's games of Week 33, the Milan powerhouse moved to 67 points by defeating last-place Empoli 4-0 while Lazio, which had entered the next-to-last round with a one-point lead, was held to a 1-1 draw by Fiorentina and slipped to second place with 66 points.

Lazio even came on the verge of collapse in the 72nd minute, when Fiorentina was awarded a penalty kick. But the powerful shot by Portuguese midfielder Rui Costa from the 11 metres was stopped by keeper Luca Marchegiani.

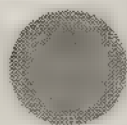
AC Milan, owned by media tycoon and former premier Silvio Berlusconi, was helped by its German striker Oliver Bierhoff who scored three goals in front of 70,000 enthusiastic fans at San Siro stadium.

Brazilian Leonardo made it four with two minutes left to improve AC Milan record to 19-10-4.

The Milan team, regaining the Serie A lead for the first time since May 1996, could clinch its fifth "Scudetto" of the 90s - but its first since 1996 - by defeating low-ranked Perugia in the closing round of the campaign this May 23.

Lazio will host UEFA Cup winner Parma at the Olympic stadium.

"Next Sunday's match, against a team struggling



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Lazio. We are now in a different psychological situation," Zaccheroni added.

In Florence, Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta hit his 21st season goal as he put the home team in front with a powerful diagonal shot in the 14th minute, after wasting two earlier chances.

Christian Vieri headed in Lazio's equalizer 13 minutes later, fed by Sinisa Muhajlovic's free kick.

Chilean striker Marcelo Salas, a second-half substitute, hit the bar with a precise header in the 53rd as Lazio pressed on the attack in the second part of the match, without achieving the game winner.

It was Fiorentina instead that came close a sensational victory when Batistuta was fouled by Lazio's captain-defender Alessandro Nesta.

Rui Costa missed the penalty, much to the despair of AC Milan fans who were following the Florence match live on transistor radios and had been hoping of a two-point advantage for the new league leader as a result of a would-be Lazio's defeat.

The Roman team, which at one moment led AC Milan by seven points overall, had its ninth season draw to add to 19 wins and five losses as it failed to cause Fiorentina's first ever home defeat.

"The title is not lost yet," said Sergio Cragnotti, the industrialist-financier who owns Lazio.

"Milan is not a certain winner against Perugia. We can hope through the last minute of play."

At San Siro Bierhoff, much criticized for wasting easy scoring chances in the previous game

against Juventus, gave AC Milan a 1-0 first-half lead smashing in the ball from five metres in the 31st.

With carbon-copy stuff in six minutes (54th and 60th) Bierhoff headed in two other goals on precise crosses from his Argentine teammate Andres Guly.

Bierhoff, improving his season total to 19 goals, moved two goals off Batistuta, the leading league scorer.

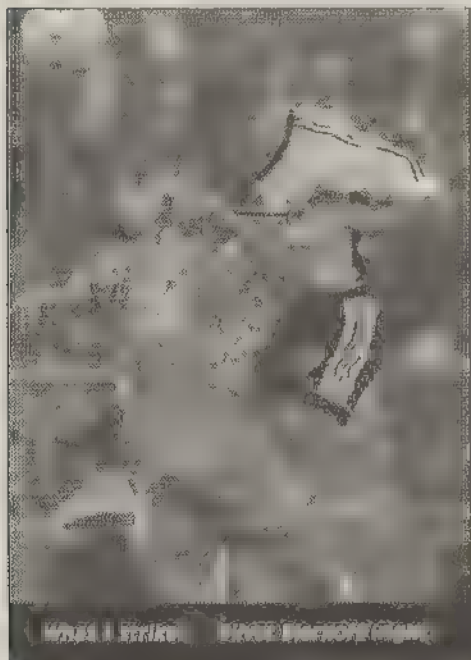
The German player received a standing ovation as he left the field in the final minutes, replaced by Maurizio Ganz.

Danish midfielder Thomas Helveg fed Leonardo for his 12th season goal.

Fiorentina drew level with Parma on 55 points, in third place, prior to Sunday's games of Week 33 in which Parma took on low-ranked Piacenza at home.

The Florentine team, which dominated and led the first part of the season, worked hard against Lazio to preserve one of the four top spots awarding a Champions League berth next season.

The games in Florence and Milan were played one day before the regular Sunday schedule because of Lazio's commitments in Wednesday's Cup Winners Cup final against Mallorca in Birmingham.



in the relegation area, will be extremely difficult for us," said Milan's coach Alberto Zaccheroni.

"We will need a victory and we will have to rely only on our strength. So far we had been pursuing



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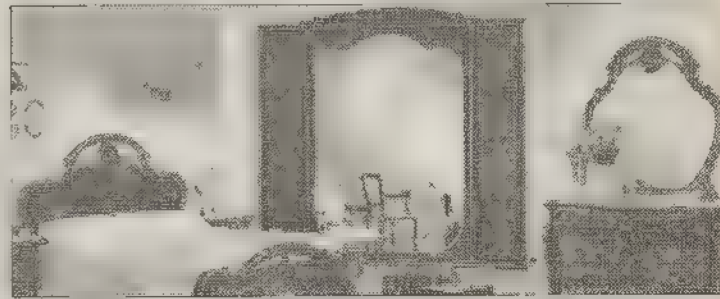
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# EUROPE

## IS DAVOR SUKER GOING BONKERS?

Suspended Real Madrid striker Davor Suker has made an unusual series of press statements regarding his club suspension. He has referred to himself in the third person, admitting to buying teddy bears in London and adding his coach's middle name when referring to him!

Real took the decision to suspend the Croatian international without pay after Suker was widely reported to have criticized Toshack's transfer dealings.

Suker, who was also fined 500,000 pesetas (\$3,200), flatly denied having made those declarations on — and said his lawyers were looking into the matter.

Despite his protests, Suker is still expected to leave the club at the end of the season, but played down speculation he might be moving to London to join either Premier League Tottenham Hotspur or Fulham, newly promoted to the English first division.

Suker would not be drawn on the matter, however, saying only: "I went to London to buy a teddy bear for my girlfriend. That's all."

The striker, who referred to himself in the third person throughout his specially arranged news conference at the Bernabeu, blamed the media for inventing the comments about his coach.

"They accused Davor Suker of saying many different things against John Benjamin Toshack that he never said."

"While we're doing all we can to secure a place in the Champions League I'm here to do my part to resolve matters because it's doing damage to me, to the club and to the coach."

Suker did not offer an outright apology for the row, which is the latest in a long line of off-the-field problems for Real this season, but did say he regretted not moving to sort things out sooner.

"People have invented phrases and attributed them to me and I didn't deny them immediately because I was with my national team in Seville."

"Maybe I made a mistake because I didn't go straight to see the president in the first week."

He added: "My lawyers are looking at the specifics."

Suker said he hoped the club would overturn the suspension but said he had not been told when, or if, he might get back playing for Real. "I'm waiting for a reply from the club. We'll see in the next few days if I get back training and then let's think about the future."

"But I want to do everything I can to help Real Madrid qualify for the Champions League by finishing



The artist formerly known as Davor Suker.

second in the league."

A knee injury ruled him out of the first month of the season and since then he has been unable to convince either former coach Guus Hiddink or his successor Toshack that he is worth a regular place in the Real starting lineup.

He has been used mainly as a substitute this year and has managed just four league goals.

## MORE TICKETING HASSLES

Fans accused Barcelona's biggest club of cheating them out of tickets for the European Champions League final after only 2,000 of an expected 10,000 were put on sale leading to rocketing black market prices.

"Madness" was the front-page banner headline on the city's sports daily El Mundo Deportivo on Wednesday, a day after thousands of club members queued in vain for tickets for the May 26 clash between Manchester United and Bayern Munich.

After lining the streets outside the club's offices, for up to 20 hours in some cases, the club members were told there would only be 2,000 tickets sold.

The leading daily El Pais reported some lucky ticket buyers as having resold their tickets for up to 150,000 pesetas (\$1,000/euros 900), more than 10 times the official price.

Barcelona last month announced it would put 10,000 tickets for the game on sale to club members. Last Friday, it said this had been reduced to 8,000 but on Tuesday it slashed it again to just 2,000.

In a club statement, Barcelona said UEFA had reduced its ticket allotment to 2,000 in order to give more to Manchester United and Bayern Munich.

The rest of the 90,000 tickets were to be divided between UEFA member associations and commercial partners.

The Irish government said it would boycott the Republic of Ireland's European qualifier against Yugoslavia next month if the match goes ahead as planned at Dublin's Lansdowne Road stadium.

The Government also expressed its "surprise and disappointment" at the decision made by UEFA, European soccer's ruling body, to allow the match,

scheduled for June 5, to take place.

"The government wishes to make it clear that if the match takes place no member of the government will be attending it," it said in a statement.

The qualifying rounds for the next year's European Championship finals have been disrupted by the crisis in the Balkans with a number of matches postponed in the last two months.

UEFA has issued a list of re-arranged matches for countries in the region. They ruled, among other matters, that Yugoslavia's home matches would have to be played in neutral countries but that its away matches can go ahead as scheduled.

Its next home match, scheduled for June 9 against Malta would have to be played on neutral territory.

UEFA's decision to allow the match against Ireland to go ahead has met opposition from both government and football officials in Ireland.

The government said UEFA's ruling had been made despite a decision by EU foreign ministers to "encourage member states and sporting organizations not to arrange international sporting events with the participation of Yugoslavia, given the illegal and appalling actions of the Yugoslav regime against the people of Kosovo."

The Football Association of Ireland said it would appeal to UEFA to declare null and void Ireland's 1-0 loss against Yugoslavia in their first Euro 2000 qualifying clash in Belgrade in November.

"If the other teams are going to play in neutral territories, there should be a replay of the Ireland match," an FAI spokesman said. "It should be a level playing field all round."



## PARMA SHOWS ITS CLASS

## CRESPO AND CHIESA LEAD WAY IN MOSCOW

Parma's twin strikeforce of Enrico Chiesa and Hernan Crespo showed why they are so highly rated after they helped demolish an understrength Olympic Marseille in the UEFA Cup final in Moscow.

Chiesa scored his eighth goal of this season's UEFA Cup and Crespo his sixth as Parma marched to its third European title of the 1990s.

The pre-match favorite was too strong for an understrength Marseille team after Crespo punished a rare defensive blunder by Laurent Blanc in the 26th minute.

The normally-reliable French international connected poorly to an attempted back header to goalkeeper Stephane Porato, presenting the 23-year-old Argentine hitman with a comfortable lob from the edge of the penalty box.

Ten minutes later previously unheralded Paolo Vanoli headed in an accurate cross from Diego Fuser, who was a UEFA Cup final loser with Lazio last season.

Crespo, who has now scored 28 goals in league and cup matches this season, nearly fired a third seconds later, but Porato pushed over his 20-yard snapshot.

But any hopes of a second-half Marseille comeback were dashed in the 55th minute, when Chiesa met a Juan Veron cross with a stunning 15-yard shot that flew past Prato.

Parma, which won the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1993 and the UEFA Cup in 1995, easily contained the French team in the second half.

In front of 55,000 fans at the Luzhniki stadium, Marseille sorely missed the five first-team players

absent because of suspension and injury.

Liverpool-bound striker Titi Camara wasted his best chance, shooting well wide from eight yards in the 70th minute.

"We gave away two goals in the first half. After that it was mission impossible," said Marseille coach Roland Courbis.

Without the suspended Christophe Dugarry, Fabrizio

Ravanelli, Peter Luccin and William Gallas and injured Eric Roy, Marseille looked a shadow of the team that fought its way to the final.

It especially lacked firepower in the absence of regular strikers Dugarry and Ravanelli.

Coach Roland Courbis was forced to ditch his normal attacking 4-3-3 formation in favor of a more defensive lineup with Florian Maurice a lone front player.

That strategy quickly unraveled after Crespo's goal.

"We weren't worried at 0-0. But the first goal devalued our strategy," said Marseille midfielder Robert Pires.

"We gave away two goals in the first half. After that it was mission impossible," Courbis said.

"We prepared hard for this match," Courbis added. "We prepared to have 10 people go on the field and fight like 12. The other team was just stronger."

The result continues Parma's brilliant recent record in European competition — it was playing its fourth European final in seven seasons — and rounds

off a fine year for the ambitious club, winner of the Italian Cup last week.

It also maintains Italy's domination of the UEFA Cup: Inter Milan has won the trophy three times, and Juventus and Parma twice, in the 1990s.

"To say that I am satisfied doesn't say it right at all. I'm overwhelmed," said Parma coach Alberto Malesani.

Parma beat Fenerbahce, Wisla Krakow, Glasgow Rangers, Bordeaux and Atletico Madrid in its march to the final.

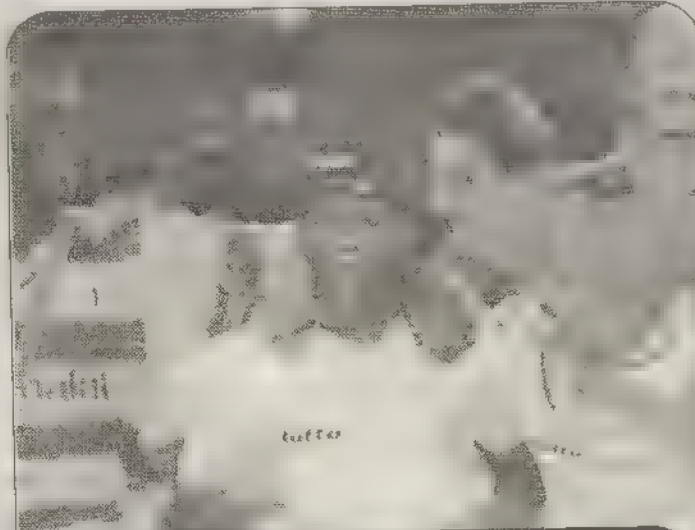
But with only about 600 Parma fans in the stadium, the match finished with long periods of silence around the giant stadium.

### Lineups

**Parma:** Gianluigi Buffon; Lilian Thuram, Roberto Sensi (captain), Fabio Cannavaro; Diego Fuser, Dino Baggio, Alain Boghossian, Paolo Vanoli, Juan Sebastian Veron (Stefano Fiore, 76th), Hernan Crespo (austino Asprilla, 84th), Enrico Chiesa (Abel Balbo, 73rd).

**Olympique Marseille:** Stephane Porato, Patrick Blondeau, Pierre Issa, Laurent Blanc (captain), Cyril Domoraud, Edson (Titi Camara, 46th), Frederic Brando, Daniel Bravo, Robert Pires, Jocelyn Gourvenne; Florian Maurice.

**Referee:** Hugh Dallas (Scotland)



Juan Veron (right) and Asprilla centre get jiggy after winning the UEFA Cup.



Compiled by

## EUROPE

# BARCELONA HELD TO DRAW

It was Valladolid that made the headlines in Spain, after holding Barca to a 1-1 draw at the Nou Camp.

The Catalans appeared set to go 12 points clear at the top as a stunning volley from Luis Enrique put them ahead on 62 minutes.

But Valladolid fought back well, snatching a deserved equaliser with eight minutes to go as Harold Lozano rose above a flat-footed Barca defence to head past Ruud Hesp.

Barcelona remain firm favourites for the championship after Friday's 1-0 defeat for closest rivals Mallorca.

They are 10 points clear with four games remaining, although Valencia can cut that to nine if they won at home to Espanyol on Sunday.

Luis Enrique's opener, a sweetly struck volley from 15 metres after Philip Cocu had swung over a hopeful cross from the left, brought to life what had been a disappointing game.

The former Real Madrid midfielder, in space inside the area, swivelled left before sweeping in off the far post.

The goal was a welcome relief for a Barcelona side that had been struggling for their usual fluency.

Valladolid, defending in numbers, were fighting for every ball and causing problems of their own on the counter attack.

Ruud Hesp was forced into two point-blank saves from Chema Jimenez in the first 15 minutes before Victor Fernandez hit the outside of the post.

But Barcelona gained greater control of the game in the second half, with Patrick Kluivert starting to find space through the middle.

The Dutch striker missed two clear chances before Luis Enrique gave Barcelona a lead they then threw away with some woeful defending.

French midfield star Youri Djorkaeff is leaving Internazionale of Milan after three years.

The 31-year old player said last Saturday that he will play his last game with Inter's blue-and-black jersey at Venezia, in Sunday's next-to-last round of the Italian Serie A.

Djorkaeff said his decision was taken in the wake of the resignation of Inter's president

Massimo Moratti.

"Now that he has left the chair of president something has changed, although he still is the club owner," Djorkaeff told the Italian news agency ANSA.

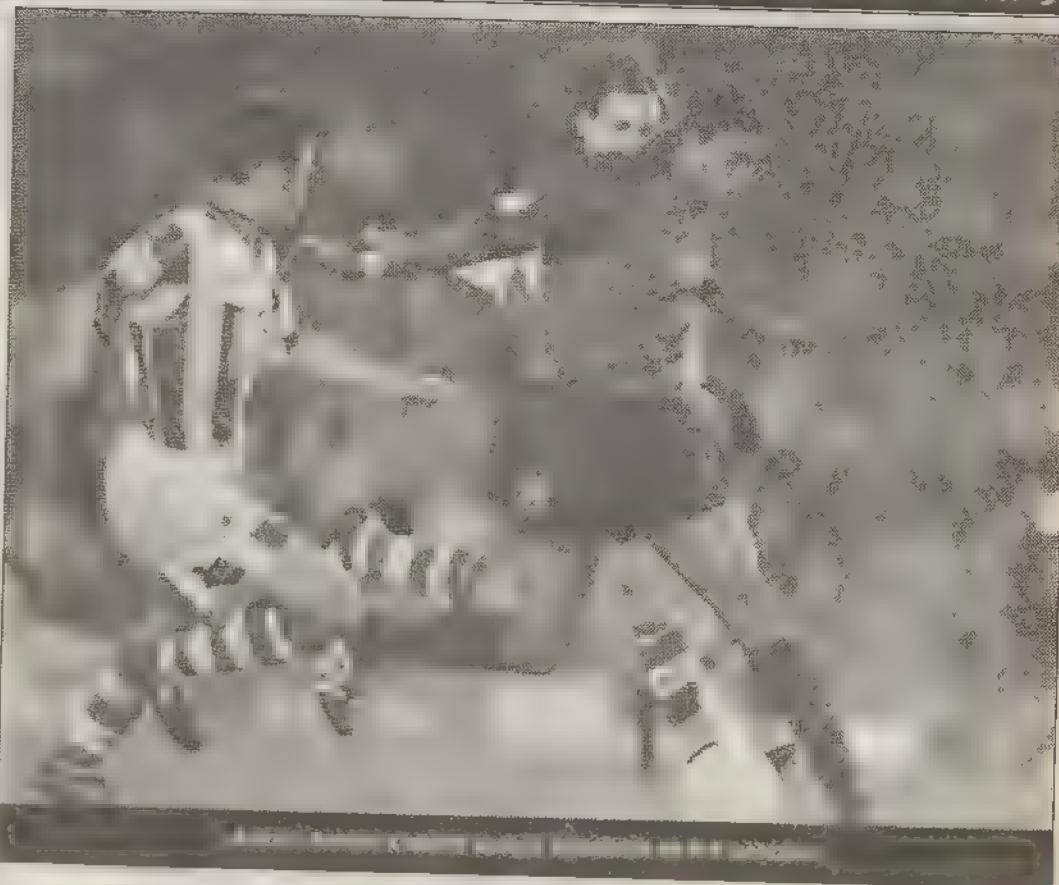
Djorkaeff did not immediately say if he was in talks with other clubs for the next season.

The French player, who scored 14 goals on his first season with Inter in 1997, has been often relegated on the substitutes bench this year, under four different coaches, as a result of Inter's rich roster of 24 players.

Meanwhile in Germany, Bayer Leverkusen made sure of finishing second and playing in the Champions League next season with a 0-0 draw at MSV Duisburg in the German first division on Saturday.

Leverkusen now have an unassailable seven-point lead on third-placed Hertha Berlin with two games remaining.

The match was relatively uneventful and the



visitors earned the best chances with a shot from close range by Brazilian midfielder Ze Roberto in the 14th minute and a header from Germany striker Ulf Kirsten which flew just wide in the 33rd minute.

Kirsten later suffered a thigh muscle injury and had to be substituted in the 73rd minute.

As he was leaving the pitch to jeers from the local fans, the Germany striker showed his middle finger to the crowd.

"He just wanted to tell me that he wanted to be substituted one minute later," joked Leverkusen coach Christoph Daum.

"We have something to celebrate," added Daum. "The Champions League was our goal and we've reached it. I want to congratulate my team." Bayern Munich, who landed their 15th German title last weekend, fell 2-0 at lowly Nuremberg.

Nuremberg, who scored through Macedonian Sasa Ciric in the 70th minute and fellow striker Martin Driller 11 minutes later, rose one place to 13th and should avoid relegation.

Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, his mind on the European Cup final against Manchester United on May 26 in Barcelona, rested several first choice players.

"We didn't play like champions," said Hitzfeld. "We wanted to have a good game but Nuremberg came up with a first class performance and their victory was a deserved one."

There was relief for troubled VfB Stuttgart, now almost certain of remaining in the top flight after their 3-1 victory over SC Freiburg lifted them two spots to 11th.

The architect of their much-needed win was Guinean midfielder Pablo Thiam, who scored in the 44th and 87th minutes.

Their other goal came through Fredi Bobic in the 61st minute.

Freiburg opened the scoring through Turkish midfielder Ali Gunes in the 33rd minute.

Strugglers Werder Bremen and Eintracht Frankfurt kept their hopes of escaping relegation alive with wins over TSV 1860 Munich and Borussia Dortmund respectively.

Bremen won 3-1 at TSV to rise to 14th while Eintracht tamed Dortmund 2-0 at home to jump one to 16th.

Bottom club Borussia Moenchengladbach, who drew 2-2 with Hamburg SV on Friday, are already relegated.

VfL Bochum, who dropped to 17th by losing 2-0 at home to VfL Wolfsburg, could follow them.

Over in Denmark and AB Copenhagen outplayed AaB Aalborg in the Danish Cup Final, winning 2-1 to capture the trophy for the first

time

Alex Nielsen scored at the end of a solo run to put AB Copenhagen ahead in the 42nd minute but AaB Aalborg equalized a minute later with Soeren Frederiksen capitalizing on a defensive lapse to equalize from close range.

In the 72nd minute, Chris Hermansen, by the near post latched on to a cross from the right to thunder home the winner.

With six league matches to play AB Copenhagen lies third in the table and is within striking distance of adding the championship for a league and cup double.

AaB Aalborg, beaten cup finalists for the fifth time in seven attempts, tops the standings with 53 points from 27 matches with defending league champion Brøndby second with 51.

AB Copenhagen has 50 points and with the championship race wide open it remains unclear which Danish teams will go into next season's Champions League and UEFA Cup tournaments.

In other Cup news, Jesper Gronkjaer's two early goals launched Ajax to a 2-0 Amstel Cup Final win over Fortuna Sittard midweek, and more importantly a place in Europe.

Ajax is tied for sixth in the league with just two games to play so moving up to fifth spot and UEFA Cup looks a tall order. But those worries are now behind a club which expects European competition every year.

Ajax achieved its 14th Dutch cup win at the expense of a team it lost to twice in this year's league.

Lightning-quick Danish winger Gronkjaer twice beat a dodgy Fortuna offside trap, clinically finishing breakaway moves on 10 and 13 minutes.

The first came from a Richard Witschge through ball. The left winger burst infield, headed the ball one side of Fortuna keeper Arno van Zwam and ran round the other, then rolled the ball into an empty net.

The second goal was almost identical, except Gronkjaer dribbled past Van Zwam in a more conventional manner.

But Fortuna too had its chances. Ruud Kool's twenty-yard volley brought up a flying save from Edwin van der Sar, and he drove two free-kicks into the Ajax wall.

Fortuna sub Ronald Hamming almost managed to thread the ball between Van der Sar's legs from point blank range, and the tall keeper also had to show his speed, twice rushing out to deny Fortuna strikers.

In the final stages Shota Arveladze, Benni McCarthy and Jari Litmanen missed half a dozen wide-open chances for profligate Ajax.



Nantes' Da Rocha with the French Cup won midweek. Behind him is Jacques Chirac, himself a footy fan from way back.



UK

## BORO FANS LAUD GAZZA THE GREAT

Paul Gascoigne's stop-start season has been capped off with the former Lazio man being named as the Middlesbrough fans' most disappointing player of the year.

The 31-year-old midfielder clearly has a job on his hands to polish his tarnished image following results of a poll conducted by the supporters' fanzine Fly Me To The Moon. Gazza comes top with 35 per cent of the votes in the 'most disappointing player' section, ahead of striker Brian Deane.

The £3.45million former Rangers star also fails to make the 'best current Boro XI', being relegated to a place on the substitutes bench. In the 'who should we get rid of?' section, he comes third.

It appears many fans who at first sympathised with his problems over drink and depression in October have lost patience with the one-time England icon.

They say in the fanzine: 'We don't think there's anyone on Teesside who doesn't sympathise with Gazza's problems off the pitch but, at the end of the day, if you're going to take £20,000 a week of people's hard-earned pay then you've got to give a little in return. He hasn't really done it has he?'

In the comments over Gazza's omission from the 'best current Boro XI' section, the authors conclude: 'It seems that, while the rest of the country debates whether Gazza is good enough to play for England, most of us on Teesside don't think he should even make it into the Boro side.'

Gascoigne is still trying to overcome knee problems amid allegations that he is once again struggling in his attempt to keep off the drink.

He still has the support of manager Bryan Robson, who said: 'Gazza is back in training and has a chance of playing on Sunday against West Ham. He was excellent for us until Christmas but the knee injury has hindered him. He's had a niggle for the last four months and it's never really gone away.'

'He will have a brief break in the summer and he will then be back early along with other injured players like Alun Armstrong to get really fit for the new season.'

Assistant manager Viv Anderson added: 'I think the Premiership will see the best of Gazza next season. This one has been stop-start with all his problems.'

While Boro fans showed their disenchantment with Gascoigne, the Football League will tonight honour him as one of the '100 League Legends'.

Gazza is on the list of stars who will be toasted at a gala dinner in London, alongside other legends including Liam Brady, Glenn Hoddle, Malcolm Macdonald, Sir Stanley Matthews, Martin Peters, Ian Rush, Peter Shilton and Alan Shearer.

The list was announced last August as part of the celebrations for this season — the 100th in the history of the Football League.

The League's director of communications Peter Rowe said: 'This is the highlight of our year, to celebrate the 100th Football League championship season.'

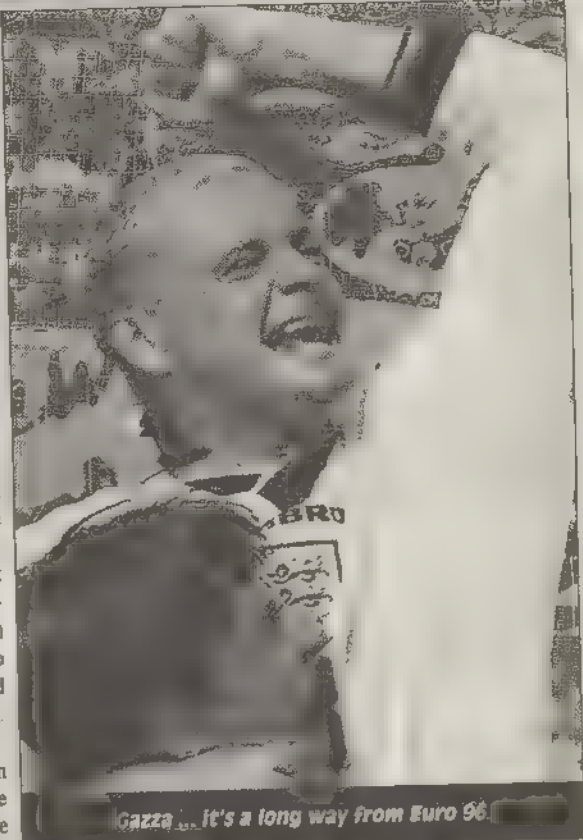
'All the legends will be receiving a special commemorative gold medal, while next of kin will receive medals for those that have passed on.'

German legend Franz Beckenbauer scored an amazing World Cup own goal by saying: 'England's bid for the 2006 tournament is in no way inferior to ours.'

The Kaiser, president of Bayern Munich, even admitted he would prefer to see his club lose the Champions League final against Manchester United than miss out on soccer's glittering showpiece in seven years.

Beckenbauer conceded that English stadiums are better equipped to host the competition.

And he insisted that Germany need to win the vote to lift national morale after a disastrous sequence of



results.

Beckenbauer said: 'There's nothing to compare with staging a World Cup.'

'But there is really no difference in the strength of our bid and that of England.'

'The infrastructure in both countries is the same, but we need to rebuild our stadiums.'

'Maybe that's a big point compared to the English — you repaired your stadiums for Euro 96 and we have to bring ours up to the standards of today, not 25 years ago.'

Danny Wilson's Sheffield Wednesday are just a ball away from a controversial appearance in next season's UEFA Cup.

Wednesday have long been in the running for the highly-criticised back-door route via the Fair Play League, based on the good behaviour of players, club officials and fans.

Despite languishing in 14th spot in the Premiership, the Owls could get into Europe for the first time in seven years as England are safe in third spot in UEFA's Fair Play League. That means their 'cleanest' side will go into a draw later this month with two places between 10 teams up for grabs, the good behaviour of players, club officials and fans.

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Pierre van Hooijdonk insists he will not be rushed through the Nottingham Forest exit door. Turkish club Fenerbahce are interested in the controversial Dutch star and are believed to be lining up a pounds 4 million summer move for him.

But van Hooijdonk, who was transfer-listed by Forest after going on strike for three months earlier this season, is in no hurry to resolve his future.

He said: 'I have no need to rush. Fenerbahce are a big club but I will only go to another team when I know it's the correct one.'

Recently, Sheff Wed were criticized for lightening up on tackles in order to receive their award, and their back door Euro entry.

## COPYRIGHT ON FOOTBALL NAMES

Spurs lawyers are working on an interesting landmark application: to have the name 'Tottenham' registered as a trademark.

If the north London club are successful it will prevent anyone but the club using the name Tottenham on merchandise.

And dozens of other top clubs would follow suit, aiming to put an end to the multi-million-pound losses incurred by unofficial merchandise.

Clubs which include the names of their area such as Newcastle, Coventry, Blackburn, Leeds, West Ham, Derby, Southampton, Leicester and Nottingham would be likely to follow Spurs' lead.

Already the Premiership club have successfully registered 'Tottenham Hotspur' and 'Spurs' as trademarks, now they are going even further to fight off those they regard as rogue merchandise sellers.

But the bid to own the word 'Tottenham' has inevitably brought protests from genuine traders, who have taken their case to their local council.

In an earlier case, the Lawn Tennis Association failed to convince the authorities that 'Wimbledon' should be protected.

Now Alan Sugar's club are pushing ahead with this soccer test case. Even players have registered their names, like England captain Alan Shearer and young striker Michael Owen.

Aston Villa boss John Gregory will bid 10 million if Blackburn decide to sell Chris Sutton. With Rovers condemned to First Division soccer next season, the 26-year-old striker remains at the top of Gregory's shopping list.

Gregory is banking on Sutton demanding a move to one of the Premiership's big clubs to boost his England ambitions.

Villa failed with a pounds 9million offer for Sutton last October before buying Dion Dublin from neighbours Coventry.

But with the increasing possibility that Stan Collymore is on his way out of Villa Park, Gregory still wants Sutton.

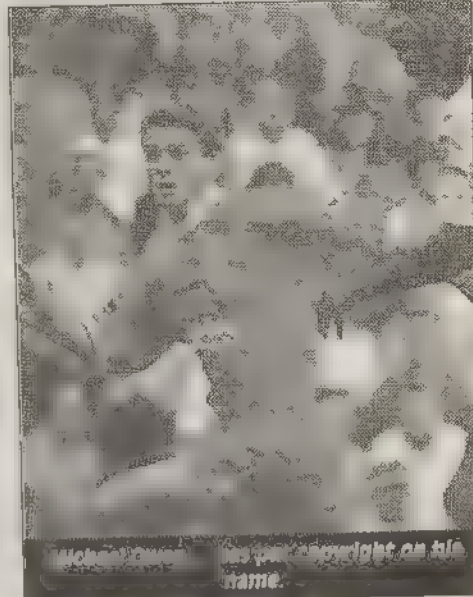
He is not prepared to kick off next season with Dublin and Julian Joachim as his only front-line attackers.

And despite spending pounds 27m in the past 10 months, Gregory has a further pounds 18m available for transfer action.

He said: 'Our title ambitions were destroyed because my squad lacked strength in depth. I don't intend to get caught out again if I can help it.'

Sutton's season has been wrecked by injuries, with just 20 starts and four goals.

But Blackburn manager Brian Kidd knows he can cash-in on Sutton's reputation to help fund a major rebuilding exercise.



Villa are continuing to explore the situation surrounding Collymore, now back home following treatment for depression. Chairman Doug Ellis, unhappy at the prospect of writing off Villa's pounds 7m investment in Stan the Man, admitted: 'We face a difficult problem over Collymore.'

Gregory will also offer a new contract next week to the club's former England Under-21 international goalkeeper, Michael Oakes.

Oakes, 25, has just over 12 months remaining on his current deal and Gregory is keen to persuade him to sign a new contract.

'I will make Michael an offer and then it is a matter of whether he accepts it,' said Gregory.

Much is likely to depend on whether Gregory signs a new keeper to cover for the expected loss of Mark Bosnich when his contract ends this summer.

Colombian international Farid Mondragon and Dutchman Sander Westerveld have been tipped as potential replacements for Bosnich.

Meanwhile, former Aston Villa winger Ray Graydon, now the successful manager of First Division — bound Walsall, is to be offered a new contract to stay at Bescot Stadium.

Graydon, who is in his first managerial role, has 12 months remaining on his current deal.

Chairman Mike Lloyd said: 'The board will be talking with Ray over the course of the next few weeks.'

'We also want to know his requirements for next season and I am sure that the board will support Ray in team-strengthening.'

## BRADFORD READY AND ROY IS KEANE

Premiership new boys Bradford City are ready to snare up old boy Dean Richards for nothing.

Boss Paul Jewell has been promised pounds 20million, but the highly-rated Wolves defender won't cost a penny after allowing his contract to run out.

Bradford-born Richards — bought from City for pounds 1.8m — is determined to join a Premiership club and said: 'I've supported the Bantams all my life. Paul Jewell is an old team-mate.'

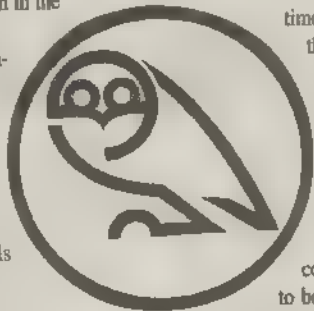
Roy is ready and is ready to play in the Cup Final this weekend.

And the Manchester United skipper also revealed his anger at the Mark Summerbell challenge that damaged ankle ligaments at Middlesbrough on Sunday.

But it is not serious enough to stop him leading United out against Newcastle.

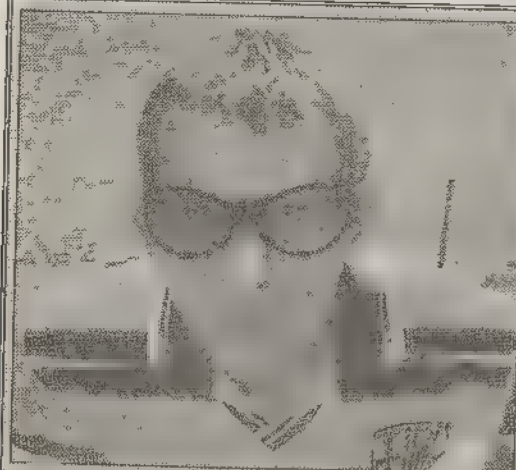
Keane said: 'I am pretty confident about the FA Cup Final. I am amazed how quickly it's healing.'

'But if I had been asked about Wembley a couple of days ago I wouldn't have been as optimistic. I was so annoyed, frustrated, disappointed and worried then.'





# UK WITH CRAZY CRAIG WILSON



thinking that we all live in a Manchester United world.

Over the past month however, we've seen the publication of two books that take a somewhat different view. *Stand Up If You Hate Manchester United* is the book to buy if you're sick of your Red Devil friends going on about 'the

Treble'. Humourously written by Messrs. Bullivant and Matthews - the bods behind British comedy favourite *They Think It's All Over*, it's filled with Old Trafford's lowest crowds, United's worst players, and lots about 1974: the season they were relegated. This is all the ammunition you'll ever need for anti-Red revenge.

On the other hand, you may prefer the wonderfully titled *Yesss!! United in Defeat*. As you may imagine from the title, this

nasty little tome takes great delight in reprinting newspaper reports of games in which United have been not only beaten, but trounced. And by lower-league opposition too.

But United are unlikely to be worried by the backlash. Last year they turned over US\$140 million, and have more supporters in New South Wales alone than many English clubs have in the whole of England.

**C**ongratulations to Bradford City on joining the big time! It's been 77 years since they played at the top level, having been relegated in 1922 (along with Manchester United!). Football fans outside Yorkshire may be unaware of their existence, so as a public service, *Kick Off!* is happy to bring you a potted, though highly selective, history of the Bantams.

Bradford City started life as a rugby team; but were so unsuccessful that in 1903 they went lock, stock and shinpad across to



soccer. Facilities were basic at the Valley Parade Ground; the home team changed in a small shed, while the away team were luxuriously housed in a local pub. The ground was hemmed in by chemical works and a sulfuric acid factory blew fumes across the pitch which left supporters 'with streaming eyes and yellow faces'.

Their first floodlights were supported by old telegraph poles, and the doomed Main Stand (which burnt down in the Bradford fire of 1985) was once described by an architect as a 'loveable tangle of struts and pillars like watching football from the cockpit of a Sopwith Camel'.

While improvements have changed the ground forever, an observer recently stated that 'pre- and half-time entertainment at the Valley Parade mostly consists of watching the rain pour off the stand roof'. Nonetheless, visitors to Bradford should try and make the trip at all costs. Home to a large Indian and Bangladeshi community, Bradford is one of the food capitals of Europe. If your idea of the perfect Saturday is to combine a match with chicken vindaloo, no other Premier League ground can hope to compete.

Fulham's promotion was achieved thanks to the genius of Kevin Keegan and the wallet of Mohammed Al Fayed. The Sun newspaper has now revealed the helping hand of a far greater power. The Pope, they tell us, is

a Fulham fanatic.

As a student, Karol Wojtyla (as he was then) studied in London. A big footy fan, the Pontiff played in goal for his seminary team, and spent many a winter Saturday at Craven Cottage. Fanline editor Ken Myers heard of the link with his Holiness, and took the liberty of ringing the Vatican over Easter.

'I couldn't believe it when I got through to his press secretary' said Myers. 'The guy even knew we were playing Wigan and was happy to talk about it'.

The Holy Father is said to be delighted by Fulham's promotion, and has wished them all the best for next season.

**A**t the other end of the celebrity scale, Monica Lewinsky has been touring Britain to promote her new biography by Andrew Morton. Newcastle fans were delighted when the young lady attended a book signing-session wearing a 'Toon Army' scarf. The local papers went into paroxysms of pleasure and sent reporters to find out how Monica became a Magpie.

The question was answered when Monica conducted a Birmingham book-promotion with an Aston Villa scarf draped around her shoulders. She also wore a United scarf in Manchester, and masqueraded as a Gunner in North London.

Who says that the lady is shameless?

Email Crazy Craig at [magicsponge@hotmail.com](mailto:magicsponge@hotmail.com)



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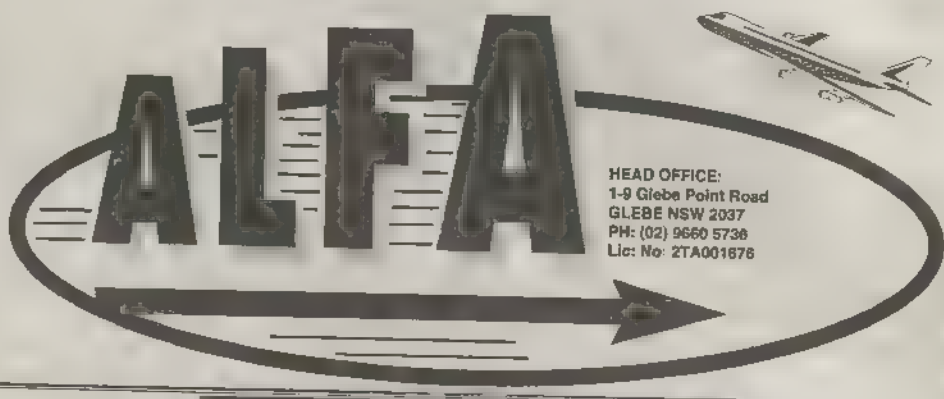
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Soccer Weekly

# ANELKA SHOCK: I WANT TO GO!

**H**ow about this for an idea. Suker to Arsenal, Anelka to Real? It could happen. Nicolas Anelka will hit title-chasing Arsenal with a transfer request this week and Suker wants out from the Spanish giants.

The news comes as Real Madrid flew in to watch the teenage French striker in the Gunners' final game of the season at home against Aston Villa on Sunday.

Anelka, who has found it difficult to settle away from his home in Paris, has launched the latest in a series of angry outbursts about life in London.

And it has been reported in France that he will demand a move this week, when Arsenal will be on a Far East tour. Anelka said: "I haven't spoken directly to them yet because first I want to concentrate on my job, which is playing for Arsenal."

"But I'm fed up. They don't respect me in England. The press don't respect me."

"It's unacceptable. People who know me know that I am a normal guy - and that is what counts for me. I'm the best striker in the club."

Real, managed by Welshman John Toshack, are ready to offer 13million for Anelka.

But Anelka is also fancied by Juventus, Barcelona and Marseilles.

But Arsene Wenger has repeatedly played down speculation he is set to leave the club and insists that it is all the work of agents who are just trying to drum up business.

Wenger said: "The situation over Anelka is quite clear. He still has four years to go on his contract. Any approach other than a direct one to the Arsenal club is illegal."

"But the player is not responsible for all this noise that surrounds him."

"It's not disruptive, because we have a lot of experienced players in the team."

"And it is not the important thing at the

moment anyway. We have other things on our mind."

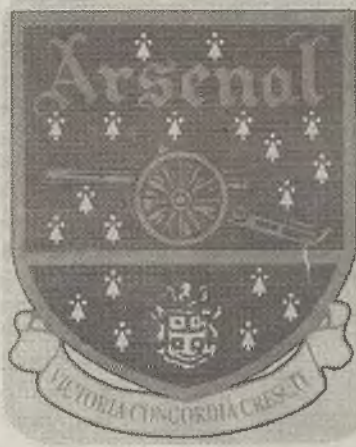
"To ask if Anelka is happy with the club is a question only he can answer."

"But I would say that he is very happy in football terms, because his game has developed a lot since he moved here."

Anelka cost the Gunners just pounds 500,000 from Paris St Germain two years ago.

Wenger reckons he is the best signing that he has made for the club and he insisted: "Of course I am planning for him to be in our squad for next season. Arsenal are not a selling club."

In fact, the emphasis looks like being on strengthening the squad as Arsenal set out on another Champions League campaign next season.



Anelka ... the petulant French star claims the press doesn't respect him.

# MONEY NO SPUR FOR ANDERTON

**D**arren Anderton was offered a contract on par with Player of the Year, David Ginola, but he has rejected it.

Ginola became the most highly paid star at Spurs when he signed a new three-year 3.6 million contract.

Similar pay deals were in the pipeline for midfielder Anderton and defender Sol Campbell.

But already Anderton has rejected the offer of pounds 25,000-a-week, and it that could force manager George Graham to sell the England international when everyone thought he was waiting for a chance to kick out the Frenchman.

Instead, after weeks of haggling, the double Footballer of the Year finally agreed the new pay deal.

Campbell will be the next to be rewarded in recognition of Tottenham bringing the first piece of silverware to White Hart Lane for eight years.

Anderton's insistence that he will not sign until he is offered more money than Ginola has already sparked debate inside the north London club about his long-term future.

The injury-prone player, who earned the nickname Sicknote due to the amount of time he spent on the treatment table, was a big hit with Terry Venables and Glenn Hoddle in the England team - but so far he has not convinced Kevin Keegan, despite a relatively injury-free campaign.

And now Graham may be thinking it is time to cash-in on Anderton who would be rated in

the 5million bracket.

That would swell Graham's transfer budget, and would be important because the rest of the players he would be willing to sell would not command such huge price tags.

Les Ferdinand, Chris Armstrong and Ruel Fox are the big-money buys that Graham knows he will lose money on with the three costing a total of 14million and unlikely to

looks likely that Anderton will be the one to leave White Hart Lane.

Meanwhile, Leicester manager Martin O'Neill will make a last ditch attempt to convince keeper Kasey Keller that his future is at Filbert Street.

But, American international Keller insists he is determined to keep his options open before committing himself.

O'Neill is obviously concerned that Keller may turn his back on the Worthington Cup finalists, and is already making provision by offering deputy keeper, Frenchman Pegguy Arphexad a new deal.

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink will quit Leeds United in the summer if they fail to make him the top earner at Elland Road.

The Dutch striker has urged the Yorkshire club to meet his 25,000-a-week wage demands or he will be forced to move.

Hasselbaink's value has rocketed following his 20-goal haul for the second season running. He has been valued at 10million by Leeds chairman Peter Ridsdale.

Kevin Campbell, whose goals virtually saved Everton from this year's drop, has agreed to take a pay cut to sign for Everton -



Sol Campbell (ctr) and Darren Anderton (right). Both have been offered massive salaries on par with Ginola.



Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink ... another Premier player with pay demands. Where will it end?

and try to escape his Turkish hell with Trabzonspor.

The hero of Everton's great escape will sign on for around 16,000 a week, which is a drop of close to 500,000 a year on his deal with the Turks.

Trabzonspor still want 3million, but Everton can only find about 2.5m for a quick deal. Even then they would have to sell first.

recoup any more than pounds 6m.

Ginola might have been off-loaded for 4m if he had refused to sign his new deal, but now it



Compiled and written by

Daryl Katz

UK

Premier League highlights

## LEAGUE ROUND UP

Chelsea ended their season on a winning note on Sunday with a 2-1 victory over Derby County at Stamford Bridge.

The home side rounded off in style, but manager Gianluca Vialli will reflect on points dropped needlessly in recent weeks which saw his side eliminated from the title race before the final day.

The Rams provided stubborn resistance early on, but Celestine Babayaro broke the deadlock when he crashed a first-time shot through a crowded goalmouth six minutes from the break.

The home side doubled their advantage on 67 minutes when Wise picked out Tore Andre Flo down the Chelsea left. The Norwegian lifted a pass to Vialli, who took one touch before hammering past Poom in the 68th minute.

Argentinian defender Carbonari curled home a late free-kick for the Rams to give Chelsea a jittery last couple of minutes.

At Upton Park, Eyal Berkovic proved the inspiration as West Ham rounded off their season with a 4-0 victory over Middlesbrough.

Clinching fifth place in the premiership means that the London side now have a chance of securing a place in Europe via the Interoto Cup.

Frank Lampard crashed home the opener after just

first-half lead.

A lacklustre performance from the home side improved in the second half, but overall the crowd were subjected to a dour struggle with little at stake for either side.

Meanwhile, at Anfield, Liverpool provided their fans with some final day joy as they cruised to a 3-0 victory over struggling Wimbledon.

Gerard Houllier's men found the going tough early on, as the Dons' tall strike force of John Hartson, Marcus Gayle and Carl Cort tested an aerially suspect Liverpool defence.

Liverpool's passing was superior though, and Patrik Berger collected a Paul Ince chip to blast home from 12 yards after just 11 minutes.

The home side extended their lead early in the second half. Real Madrid-bound Steve McManaman supplied a near-post cross and Karl-Heinz Riedle arrived to force the ball home from close range.

Ince rounded off the scoring after 64 minutes, turning home a Dominic Matteo cross to send the Anfield faithful home in buoyant mood.

At Highfield Road, Leeds scored in the final minute to salvage a 2-2 draw with Coventry City. Clyde Wijnhard scored his first league goal since

## SURVIVAL AT THE DELL; CHARLTON RELEGATED

The scene was a familiar one at The Dell late on Sunday afternoon, where Southampton staged another final-day escape act to retain their premiership status with a 2-0 victory over a resurgent Everton.

David Jones has watched his side battle against the drop since they first entered the relegation zone in just the second week of the season. Their spirited late run has seen them secure seven victories in their last ten home league matches, and they have not lost at The Dell since Boxing Day.

They have ended the season with three consecutive wins, including last week's 2-0 triumph at Wimbledon.

114-year history.

The match had been level for 24 tense minutes when Pahars pounced. James Beattie beat Craig Short and Dave Watson to help on Jason Dodd's long pass and send Pahars clear.

The striker did well to steady himself before firing a fierce 12-yard drive beyond Thomas Myhre to send the home fans into ecstasy.

Southampton had opportunities to go further ahead, Mark Hughes somehow heading over from three yards, before Pahars put the result beyond doubt on 68 minutes.

Chris Marsden robbed Olivier Dacourt, disappointing in what could be his final Everton appearance, and fed Beattie, whose superb cross was headed home from close range by a diving Pahars.

The little striker was given a standing ovation when he was substituted 10 minutes from time as the home fans saluted the man who had ensured Manchester United, Arsenal and the rest will again visit The Dell next season.

The other end of the emotional spectrum was in evidence at The Valley, where Charlton saw their hopes of survival crushed in a 1-0 loss to Sheffield Wednesday.

The events in London were rendered largely irrelevant by Southampton's victory however, and Alan Curbishley's brave side now find themselves heading straight back to the Nationwide League.

Charlton attacked from the start as they chased the goal that was essential to give them a chance of survival. In the first half Graham Stuart, Carl Tiler and Steve Brown all went close, and Clive Mendonca saw a goal disallowed for offside.

In the knowledge that Southampton were one ahead at half-time, Charlton came out with all guns blazing after the break, Wim Jonk clearing Tiler's header from in front of the far post while Mendonca, John Robinson and Steve Jones all failed to get a touch to Danny Mills' inswinging cross.

It was then that the crowd became aware of developments at the Dell and that seemed to affect the players and the fans. The resulting Wednesday goal, eleven minutes from time, came as no surprise.

The passionate atmosphere generated by a 20,000 capacity crowd seemed to die when Danny Sonner played a one-two with Niclas Alexandersson before chipping over the advancing Andy Petterson.

To their credit Charlton kept plugging away but it was not to be and several players slumped to the turf as the final whistle went, their premiership adventure finally over.

The vast majority of the Charlton crowd stayed to salute their heroes as they took a circuit of the pitch, but could not hide their disappointment.



Charlton have been relegated after their 1-0 loss at home to Sheffield Wednesday.

Taking 11 points from a possible 15 has seen them survive to spend a 22nd consecutive season in the top flight.

Latvian striker Marians Pahars was the hero on the day, scoring on either side of half time to become an instant Saints hero.

Matt Le Tissier, for so long the club's saviour, was at the heart of everything, particularly in the first half, but it was Pahars who set them on the way to victory in what was locally regarded as the biggest game in the club's



Chelsea finished third in the league despite big spending at the start of the season.

three minutes, and twenty minutes later Berkovic inspired West Ham's second, splitting the Middlesbrough offside trap with precision as Trevor Sinclair found Marc Keller to extend the lead.

Boro failed to muster any real threat even with the home side depleted as a result of suspensions.

West Ham remained in control after the break, and it came as no surprise when Berkovic set up Trevor Sinclair 15 minutes from time, the striker delicately chipping Boro goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer.

Paolo Di Canio completed the scoring three minutes later after Sinclair was denied by the woodwork.

At St James Park, Newcastle warmed up for next week's FA Cup final against Manchester United with a 1-1 draw against relegated Blackburn Rovers.

Alan Shearer's muscle strain meant he was rested, while Duncan Ferguson's bout of cold gave him an unwanted afternoon off.

German international Dietmar Hamann capped a fine individual performance with a 51st-minute equaliser after Jason Wilcox had given Blackburn a

September just before the break, but second half Goals from John Aloisi and Paul Telfer saw the home side heading for victory.

However, in the third minute of injury time, David Hopkin rounded Magnus Hedman to secure the Leeds equaliser.

Nottingham Forest ended their miserable season on a high note, clinching a third successive victory when they dispatched East Midlands rivals Leicester City 1-0 at the City Ground.

It brought a small amount of relief to long-suffering Forest fans and ensured that Ron Atkinson bowed out with a win after 28 years in management.

Forest's victory was sealed by a deflected 75th-minute effort from midfielder Chris Bart-Williams but they had had to ride their luck in the second half, Leicester twice hitting the woodwork and denied twice more by goalline clearances.

Forest held on however, much to the pleasure of supporters who had seen their side go more than eight months without a home league win.



Mark Hughes(r) was inspirational for Southampton during the last weeks of the season.



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UK

Premier League Highlights

# MANCHESTER UNITED:

## CHAMPIONS

Manchester United clinched the FA Carling Premiership trophy for the fifth time in seven seasons on Sunday, coming from behind to secure a 2-1 victory over Tottenham Hotspur at Old Trafford.

Alex Ferguson's dominant side now have the opportunity to create history.

On Saturday, they travel to Wembley, where they meet Newcastle United in the FA Cup final as they attempt to secure the league and cup double for a record third time.

Four days later, they meet Bayern Munich at Barcelona's Nou Camp Stadium, hopefully seeking an unprecedented treble of league, cup and European glory.

As United strode out into their 'theatre of dreams' on Sunday, they knew that victory would ensure the title, irrespective of how defending champions Arsenal fared at Highbury.

At times, the match must have seemed like torture for the fans, who monitored their radios for developments in London.

Much had been made of the irony of Spurs boss George Graham possibly helping his old club Arsenal, where he won six trophies in eight years, to retain the title they won so gloriously last season.

There had also been suggestions that sheer weariness caused by battling on three fronts would cause United to trip at the final hurdle.

The preamble counted for nothing after kickoff however, and the fans were almost celebrating as early as the seventh minute when United came close to

scoring what would have been one of the most bizarre goals of the season.

Spurs goalkeeper Ian Walker took his time with a routine clearance from his six-yard box, only to see his kick crash against the advancing Dwight Yorke and spin agonisingly towards goal where it struck the post and rebounded into the goalkeeper's grateful arms.

If that was lucky for a Spurs side robbed of the talents of David Ginola with a calf injury after just eight minutes, then there was nothing fortunate about the way they took the lead after 24 minutes.

A long floated ball found the head of Steffen Iversen who beat David May in the air and sent the ball skidding into the path of Les Ferdinand.

The former England striker shrugged off the attentions of Ronny Johnsen and instinctively lobbed the ball over Peter Schmeichel.

With Spurs 1-0 up, United's title party was suddenly in danger of being gatecrashed by Arsenal's fiercest rivals.

However, United are resilient and seldom panic, a fact illustrated by their comeback from two goals down against Juventus in Turin some weeks ago.

They surged forward and Ian Walker had to produce fine saves from Teddy Sheringham and at close-range from Scholes.

It was the impressive David Beckham, however, who brought United level with a sublime finish. Scholes dispossessed Tim Sherwood in midfield and found Beckham unmarked in the penalty area.

Few players strike a ball as viciously as the United

midfielder, and the wicked swerving shot high into the Spurs net would have beaten any goalkeeper in the world.

With the scores level in Manchester and London at half-time, Ferguson brought on Andy Cole for Sheringham. Two minutes later, United had the lead.

Gary Neville played the ball into the Spurs penalty area, and two deft touches from Cole brought the ball under control before he lobbed it superbly over Walker and into the net.

Despite news of an Arsenal goal at Highbury, United's fate was back in their own hands, and they proceeded to push forward in search of a decisive third.

With twenty minutes remaining, Ferguson opted for caution, withdrawing Scholes for the more defensively-minded Nicky Butt.

The final minutes were anxious, but United would not be denied, and held out to take the points and the title.

Both United and Arsenal have been superb this season, and there was little doubt that the London side would force United to win to take the title.

In the end, the Arsenal efforts were in vain, and they will reflect on last Tuesday's loss to Leeds at Elland Road as the match which finally ended their dream.

Arsene Wenger's side turned in a fine performance against an Aston Villa side who packed their defence and attempted to catch the title aspirants on the break.

Early opportunities saw Patrick Vieira force Michael Oakes into a diving save and the Villa goalkeeper then blocked a goalbound Marc Overmars shot with his legs after the Dutchman had cut into the penalty area.

With 25 minutes gone, Highbury erupted with the news of Ferdinand's strike at Old Trafford and there was suddenly an extra spring in the step of the home side.

Ray Parlour wasted two half-chances before Dennis Bergkamp's curling free-kick was headed off the line by Gareth Southgate.

Villa threatened intermittently, Ricardo Scimeca miscuing a shot wide from the edge of the area and Julian Joachim also going close.

Shortly after Overmars had hit the side-netting, Highbury fell eerily silent on learning of Beckham's



David Beckham scored the equaliser for United. Mr Spice has been at his brilliant best this season.

equaliser.

After the interval, Vieira somehow conspired to miss two more chances before Cole's second half goal took the wind out of the sails of the Highbury faithful.

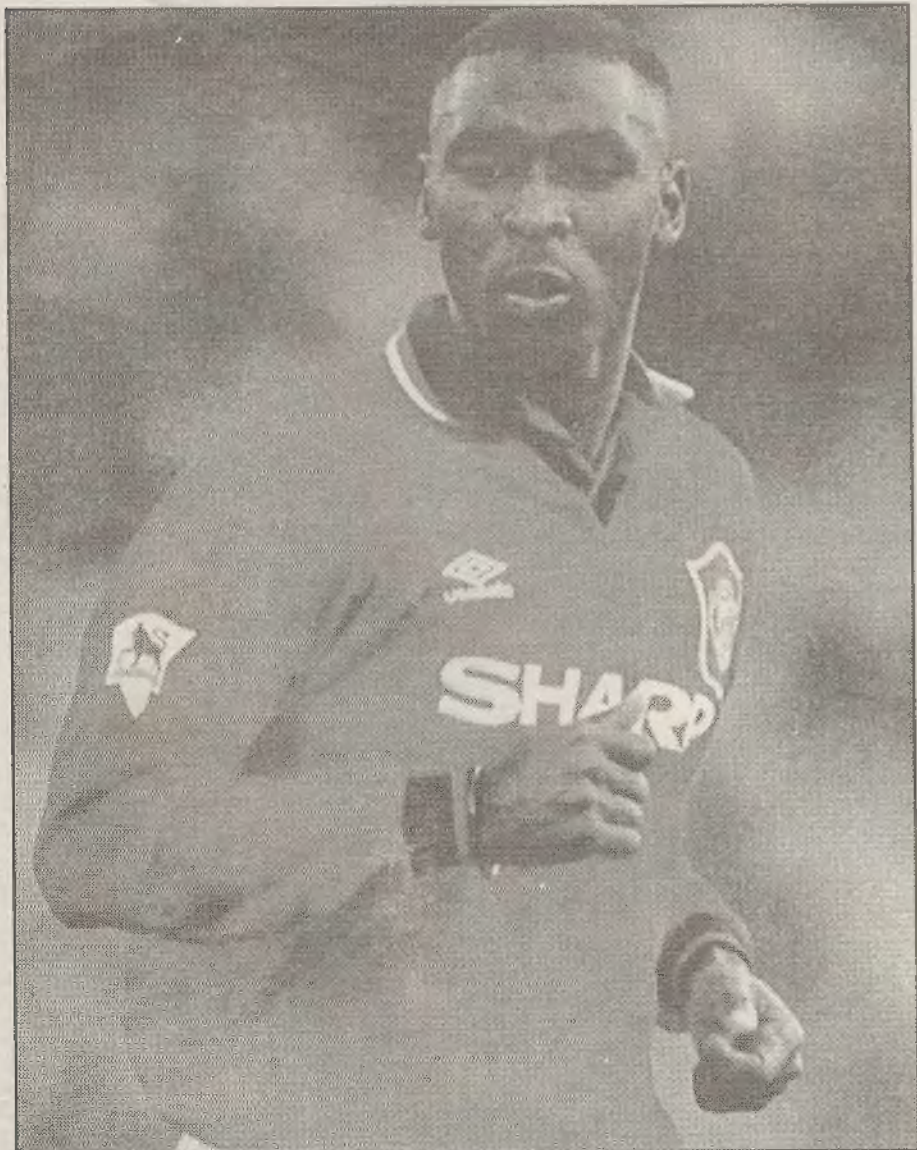
Nicolas Anelka was replaced by Kanu with 30 minutes left, and the Nigerian's impact was almost immediate as he controlled Emmanuel Petit's corner and shot fiercely into the net to finally give his side a chance.

In the end it did not matter as the outcome at Old Trafford was confirmed two minutes after the final whistle at Highbury.

This season's title race was one of the most exciting in recent memory. A three-way battle until two weeks ago, Chelsea have done themselves much credit despite some serious injuries to key players and they will look to next season with optimism.

Arsenal's spirited attempted defence of their title also augurs well for the future.

In the end though, nobody will deny Ferguson's magnificent side their right to be crowned champions following an all-conquering season on three fronts.



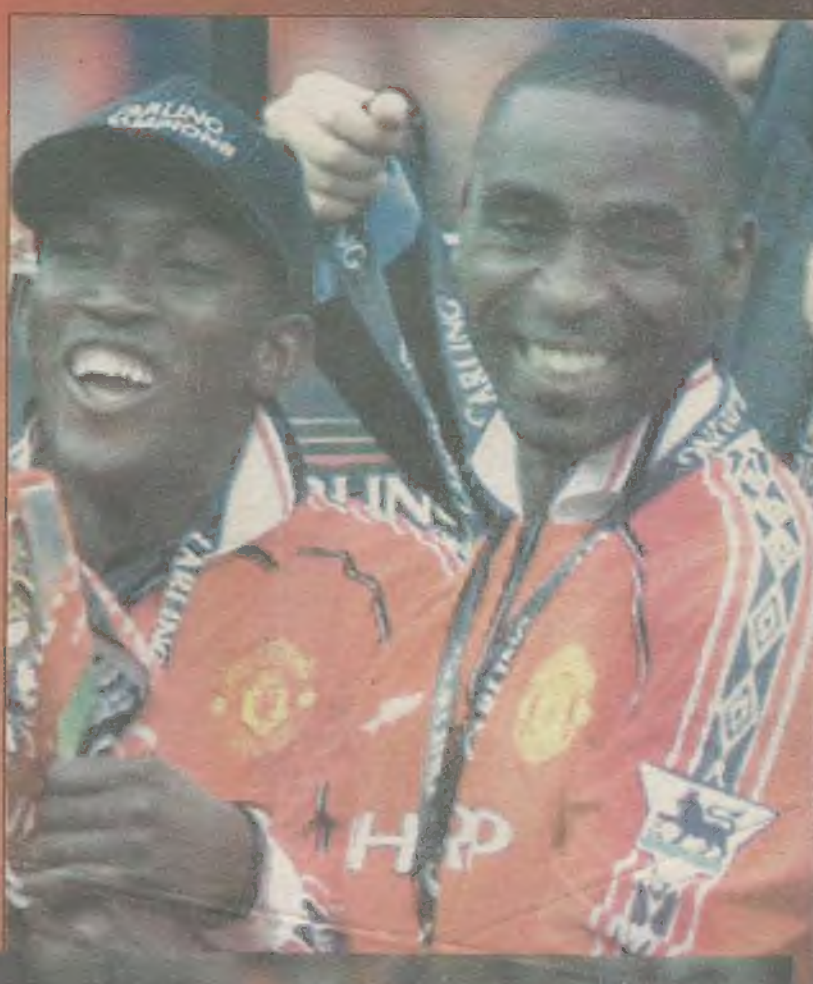
King Cole is certainly the toast of Manchester following his winning goal which gives United the first leg of their unique treble.



Arsenal are rueing their midweek loss to Leeds. Despite defeating Villa, the win was not enough as United regained the English Premiership that they lost to Arsenal last year.



# GOAL KING COLE



**MANCHESTER UNITED  
ENGLISH PREMIER  
LEAGUE CHAMPIONS  
1999**



**CAN MAN. UTD DO  
THE TREBLE???**  
**ENGLISH CHAMPIONS  
YES!**  
**FA CUP  
??**  
**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE  
???**